

# Transcript created by Epiq

Event: Callum Tulley BBC video diaries  
BBC000603 - KENOV3021

MALE SPEAKER 1: Okay, cut. So tell me what happened today?

CALLUM TULLEY: It was a really quiet day. Yeah, it was a quiet day, not much happened. Spent most of my morning on E wing and in the IT room. In the afternoon I went on an escort and spent the rest of the day pretty much on E wing again.

There was two conversations that I had with people. One with Derek in the morning on E wing. And one with Calvin in the afternoon on C wing.

And while I was on E wing in the morning with Derek in an office full of people, he was openly bragging basically about a detainee who was swallowing ... who was threatening to swallow a razor blade. Let me start that again.

Derek was ... in an office full of people Derek was basically bragging about how a detainee who was about to swallow razor blades was basically ... how do I describe it?

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's okay, just start that one again.

CALLUM TULLEY: Just don't know how to put it. I can't really remember what he said now.

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's okay, we can come back to it, if you want. Why don't you tell me about the Calvin one?

(27 seconds of silence)

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, no. Derek was basically bragging about how he stopped a detainee from swallowing a razor blade. And he essentially said that he went into the cell and gave him an upper cut to the throat so he basically coughed the razor blades right out.

And he took great pleasure in telling this to the whole office and found it quite funny and so did quite a lot of the members of staff.

And then in the afternoon, I was speaking to Calvin in the C wing office. And he was telling me again how he smacked a detainee's head on the table and twisted his wrist. And he was saying that it was the Egyptian who had been restrained a couple of weeks ago. So this Egyptian obviously hasn't just been assaulted by Yan.

Calvin's just admitted to me that he's assaulted him as well.

So there's such a clear culture of physical abuse in Brook House that staff are not only willing to actually abuse detainees but speak openly about it in front of officers without fear of retrib ... without, fuck.

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's okay, don't worry.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, sure okay.

MALE SPEAKER 1: So going back to Derek. So this is in a crowded office and this isn't the first time you've had something similar like this happen when people are kind of boasting in the open.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, so in reception last week, today in E wing office and also today in the C wing office. No, let me just start that again.

So in reception last week, this morning in E wing office and this afternoon in C wing office, we've seen staff openly brag in front of

numerous colleagues about how they've assaulted and physically abused detainees.

So there is ... there is a clear culture in Brook House, it's acceptable to assault and brag about assaulting detainees without fear of being caught or facing any sort of repercussions.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Did anyone react to Derek's story?

CALLUM TULLEY: Well, people only reacted with laughter. Yeah, people only reacted with laughter to Derek's story. So there wasn't any ... there was surprise, no one was surprised by either of the three stories that I've heard over the last few days.

People just either find it funny or they're just used to hearing these sort of stories so there is just no reaction.

MALE SPEAKER 1: If you just tell me that again and don't be afraid to repeat yourself. And just kind of ... just tell me again, just tell me again, basically.

CALLUM TULLEY: Okay. So I went into E wing office ... I went into ...

So this morning on E wing whilst in the office I was with Derek and three other officers. And Derek was just openly telling us how he had prevented a detainee from swallowing razor blades by basically delivering an upper cut to his throat and forcing him to cough the razor blades out.

And he took great pleasure in telling us this and he laughed and other officers found it funny.

And then later on in the afternoon on C wing I was speaking to Calvin and Calvin was saying in front of me and a female officer how he had

smacked the detainee's head, the Egyptian detainee's head, who was restrained a couple of weeks ago, and choked by Yan, onto a table and dug his fingers or ... no.

And twisted ... oh fuck's sake man, 'cos last week he said he'd dug his fingers into his neck and today he's saying like he twisted his hand and stuff like that. So I'm just getting them both mixed up.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Just tell me what he told you today.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yes, sure. No, that's what I was trying to do. But I just got the stories mixed up.

Yeah, sorry.

MALE SPEAKER 1: That's okay. Well, why don't we frame it and just be like, "This is the guy who's told me something else before?" I mean he might be making it up, but that doesn't make it any better, the fact that he's just boasting about what he ... he's boasting about violence.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, Calvin really does want to be one of the boys and I do think that's why he is quite willing to brag to me about the things he's done to detainees in the centre.

But even if it's exaggeration or even it's completely untrue, he's clearly feels like he's able to just openly confess to assaulting detainees in front of other officers.

And these aren't the Yans and Dereks of Brook House, these are just normal, everyday working officers who haven't really caught my attention in the past, but who are so used to hearing these sort of comments made it just goes through one ear and out the other.

So it's just ... sorry mate.

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's okay. I like your last point, just like kind of relating the two together. Why don't you just tell me what the officers like Derek and Yan ... what's the effect that they're obviously having or what is the effect of this culture that you're referring to? What is the effect on the wider staff?

CALLUM TULLEY: I think 'cos ... yeah. I think the effect that this culture ... the effect that this culture ... I'm just trying to think how to phrase it.

MALE SPEAKER 1: I suppose what I'm getting at is just like the staff turnover is so high, you've got people like Yan who will use martial arts on detainees. And then it sounds like these other officers are just, not just following suit, but trying up the ... like to compete with that level. And well, you tell me, do you think the officers are trying to compete?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I think with Calvin, I think like, something you notice with officers coming into the centre is they're either disturbed by what goes on at Brook House and they leave and that's probably why the turnover at Brook House is so high, or at least one of the reasons. Or they're forced to sort of join the club and become desensitised and almost corrupted by the culture of abuse at Brook House to the extent where now you've got someone like Calvin who's just desperate to be regarded as highly as possible. So he will just openly confess to assaulting detainees in front officers. And it's so commonplace that it doesn't get challenged, no one really bats an eye lid at these sort of comments.

But actually they're really serious, quite possibly criminal offences that he's confessing to. And just like I say no one even takes note of it. It just doesn't make people ... doesn't make people ... sorry.

MALE SPEAKER 1: How does it make you feel when there isn't any comeuppance?

CALLUM TULLEY: What's comeuppance? Like consequence?

MALE SPEAKER 1: Yeah, what ... how does it make you feel there isn't any consequence for this violent boasting?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, it just ... I mean like I've worked there for two years now so I saw it as soon as I started working at Brook House, these were the sort of conversations I was witnessing.

So it's not a new thing, it's been going on for years now. And it was one of the reasons I became a whistle blower because it just makes me angry. It is ... I don't see how it's possibly acceptable to openly gloat about abusing residents in the centre.

Like I just ... I find it astonishing, to be honest, that there's ... that culture exists and has been allowed to exist for years.

MALE SPEAKER 1: What else happened today?

CALLUM TULLEY: Nothing, mate. We've got like time, if you want, really. If you want to go over some of that stuff again.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Well, I might come back to that in a bit, to give you some time to just kind of reflect on it a bit, but we've got some other pick ups to do.

So --

CALLUM TULLEY: So when was this? Oh yeah.

MALE SPEAKER 1: When you're ready.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. I was talking to one of the longest serving detainees from Somalia and he was basically telling me about how he felt drugs had been getting into the centre.

And he was quite confident that it all comes in from outside, not from staff, but from detainees who are being admitted into the centre, or through visitors that are coming in.

Sorry mate, it's hard --

MALE SPEAKER 1: No, it's fine. You don't have to apologise.

CALLUM TULLEY: I don't really know what ... why is that of note, a conversation of note?

MALE SPEAKER 1: Well, because he is somebody who --

CALLUM TULLEY: Sorry, yeah. I was, yeah.

I was talking to a Somali detainee and he's one of the longest serving in the centre. And I was asking him how he thought drugs got in and, sorry man. I can't, it's so long ago, you know?

MALE SPEAKER 1: I know, I know what you mean.

CALLUM TULLEY: It's like not really that fresh. Sure. Yeah. I was talking to a Somalian detainee who's one of the longest serving ... fuck, sorry.

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's okay, take a breath.

CALLUM TULLEY: It's just annoying really.

MALE SPEAKER 1: No, it's not. Don't worry. Do your little thing where you're like that.

CALLUM TULLEY: No, I've not got the energy, I've not got enough energy, I feel really flat at the minute, that's my problem.  
Because this was a long time ago I can't speak passionately --

MALE SPEAKER 1: I know what you mean.

CALLUM TULLEY: -- like with --

MALE SPEAKER 1: Well, let's give it one last try and then we'll move on because the next one you'll like.

CALLUM TULLEY: Hopefully.

MALE SPEAKER 1: You will, I promise. So just tell me, just introduce me to the conversation, what you kind of said and I'll prompt you.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. I was talking to one of the longest serving detainees in the centre and I was just asking him how he felt drugs got into Brook House. And he said he felt they came from outside.

At first I thought he meant staff but actually he was talking about detainees and visitors and although I'm really not sure if this is the case, he has been in the centre for almost two years. So he's probably quite a credible person to ask.

And he was sure that when detainees are being admitted into the centre and when visitors are coming through to see other detainees that it's actually just being brought in from the outside.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Did it surprise you to learn how easy he thinks it is? I mean, let's ... if he is telling the truth.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I mean ...

MALE SPEAKER 1: He was basically saying that shoving something under your armpit, is it easy enough?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, yeah, he was saying it was as easy as shoving something under your armpit and bringing it in that way.

I don't know how true that is but there is so much spice in the centre that it's getting in somehow. And it's clearly not difficult enough just because due to the sheer quantities that we're witnessing in the centre at the moment.

Sorry mate.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Okay, you ready?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, so DX who has been detained for over two years was told that he now has bail and he was going to be released so he could go

back to his home in Edinburgh. And it was a really nice moment for staff and detainees in the centre.

He was known to be very helpful with detainees in their cases. He was also very helpful to staff. He's a bit of a peacemaker in the centre. And people look up to him.

So when we learnt of his release we were all very pleased for him and detainees and officers were unified in wishing him well and saying goodbye. And were just really eager to see him out the centre and back really with his family where he belongs.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Okay, tell me that one again but could you just lead into by saying like a couple of the longer term detainees left us today, one was Joseph. People were very happy to kind of wish him well. Then could you also tell me a little bit more about the fact that he'd been in detention for two years and 10 months and he wasn't removed? I mean tell me how you feel about that. I mean it's a happy ... just tell me how you feel about it.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I mean **DX** was released in the end so it was a happy ending for him. But he was detained for over two years for no reason really. The whole point of his detention was to remove him and he wasn't removed. So it was a complete waste of time. It was a complete waste of his time. It was a complete waste of the Home Office's time, of Immigration's time. It was a waste of resources. It cost him money to be there. It cost Immigration and the Home Office a lot of money to detain him.

And for over 24 months it's just an incredible waste of time and resources really.

So obviously people were pleased to see him go and released because he was a very likeable character but really it didn't ... it obviously didn't need to ... his detention didn't need to ...

MALE SPEAKER 1: Okay, pick up on that last thought. It was nice, go on.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I'm just trying to think what I was actually ...

MALE SPEAKER 1: It was like obviously it was a happy occasion but is it tinged?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I mean ... I don't ... yeah, it was ... it was ... tinged, no.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Don't use that word, don't let me put words in your mouth.

CALLUM TULLEY: No, I know, I wasn't ... I'm just trying to think what it was.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Well, why don't we ... you can talk about it a bit wider, like how many people do you see released versus actually removed? Especially the longer serving ones, like ... I mean why don't you feed into the wider picture, like how ... do you know what I mean?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. Sorry, can you say that again?

MALE SPEAKER 1: Well, let's cut there.

CALLUM TULLEY: So yeah, it was nice to see **DX** released but when I've had ... it was nice to see **DX** released but when you sort of reflect on it and you think about the amount of time that he's spent in detention and the amount of time that so many detainees spend in detention for literally ... they spend years there.

And they're released, like they're not deported. So what is the point of taking them away from their families and out of society to the cost of ... sorry man, I just don't know. I can't get any fucking fluidity the way I'm speaking today, I'm really sorry man.

MALE SPEAKER 1: It's fine, do not worry. Let's move on, or let's just pick up on that last one because I felt like you were very ... you were almost there.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Do you want a drink? Do you want to stop?

CALLUM TULLEY: No, there's nothing like ... I don't know what it is, mate.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Don't worry.

CALLUM TULLEY: It's because it was so long ago now, like if it was the next ... if it was the day it happened or the day after it would be different. But this was like a week ago so I don't really feel that strongly about it anymore. Know what I'm saying?

MALE SPEAKER 1: I know what you mean. All right, well let's ...

CALLUM TULLEY: So I've been looking at my work rota just as I do normally each day.  
And I realised something on the spreadsheet where the ... fuck, man.  
I don't understand what ... I'm just really not, sorry mate.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Right, just take a really deep breath. Seriously, just take a really  
deep breath because --

CALLUM TULLEY: I think it's like I've just gone into a downward spiral, I'm really  
struggling to get out of it.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Don't worry.

CALLUM TULLEY: Okay, cool.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Start again. You were looking at your hours.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. So what was I looking at though? I wasn't looking at my  
hours. I was looking at ...

MALE SPEAKER 1: Your rota?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. I was looking at the rota to see when I'd next be working and  
at the bottom of the rota there's ... I don't want to, can you just cut it  
for a minute, cos I don't want ...  
So I was looking at my work roster just to see when I'd be working for  
the next coming days and I realised when looking at my shifts that the  
centre are not nearly meeting their contractually required hours for  
pretty much every day of the month.

I was scanning across the dates on my line to see when I would and wouldn't be working. And I could see just at the bottom of the screen the amount of hours that the centre is under, sometimes by hundreds of hours a day.

And that equates to sometimes over ten members of staff and they're just not meeting the contractually required hours that they're meant to be.

And the impact that that can have on the centre is massive. Like well, I was speaking just today to a member of staff who was talking about the nights that she was recently working on. And how wings were literally left completely unattended because they just didn't have the staff to manage the centre.

She said she was stuck on a constant supervision for four hours because there was no one to relieve her. And obviously for that detainee, that poses a huge risk because to expect someone to be able to concentrate intensely on someone for a period of four hours, it's just not ... it's not realistic.

And that detainee, whilst she had a lapse in concentration, could have self-harmed or committed suicide, something seriously wrong can happen.

And then there are wider implications as well with incidents of violence where the detainees can't be managed properly, where food can't be brought to the wings, where there's just not enough officers to lock down and lock up wings.

It's ... the centre cannot function with the amount of staff that are currently working there.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Can you just tell me, what do we know about him?

CALLUM TULLEY: So this man from Kuwait, he is pretty old. He's in his 60s and he is very likeable, I have to say. He's so friendly, so polite. He can barely speak a word of English, but he can say "thank you", he can say "hello".

I know that "Habibi" means "my love" and he often says "Habibi" to me and to so many officers and detainees. He is very well-natured and a lot of staff are quite concerned about him, they don't feel it's appropriate place for him to be detained. And members of the chaplaincy team are a bit worried for him.

And yeah, it does, it is confusing to see why the Home Office deem him such a security risk that he needs to be detained in what is essentially a category B prison.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Could you tell me like what someone was telling you that he's basically illiterate, like. And they told you that he's from a certain tribe or something --

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, so a member of the chaplaincy team was telling me that he is totally illiterate. And the tribe that he comes from in Kuwait don't really allow their tribe members to read or write. So he really doesn't stand much of a chance in detention in terms of communicating with people and really letting his feelings known. So he can ... he is clearly quite isolated with his own thoughts because he just can't speak to anyone. He is totally alone.

MALE SPEAKER 1: And one thing I picked up on in the footage is that like on his ID card when he first arrived in the centre, he had like black hair. And people kind of commented on the fact that he's going grey.  
I mean what do you think that means?

CALLUM TULLEY: He's been detained for quite a long time but he's not one of the longest serving detainees in the centre. And still you notice when you look at his ID card that when he came into Brook House he had almost jet black hair and now he has gone totally grey.  
He doesn't look great either to be honest. He's put on weight since I saw him when he came in. And it's ...  
It's ... I think it just sort of speaks volumes of the stress that he's been under since he's come in, that he's now in a position where he's gone completely grey.  
And he does ... you can see his face as well, he's got a lot more wrinkles than he had when he come into the centre. And it's just ... it just proves that when you come into this place, doesn't matter how long you've been there, when you leave you're likely to look a completely different person, just purely based on the stress that you're under and the impact that the centre has on your health.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Good, can you stand to tell me that last one again?

CALLUM TULLEY: Sure, yeah. Sure, ask me again then, sorry.

MALE SPEAKER 1: So have you noticed him kind of going greyer?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. So yeah, when he ... I've noticed looking at his ID card that he ... I've noticed looking at his ID card that when he came into the centre he basically had jet black hair and now he's completely grey. So clearly the stress of being detained in Brook House has changed the way he looks. And that was echoed by staff as well. A member of the chaplaincy team was quite concerned and saying how she's noticed him age significantly in such a short period of time. And it's not just true with this detainee, I've seen it with many others. They come into the centre looking quite healthy, but they leave looking completely different.

MALE SPEAKER 1: Cool.