

Transcript created by Epiq

Event: Callum Tulley BBC Video Diaries
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CALLUM TULLEY: So you want me to give that scenario when we do a search?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Yeah. In general. Just tell me when you'll do a search and how they work.

CALLUM TULLEY: Oh, fuck me.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Choose a couple. I don't want a full list. Just a couple, including this one.

CALLUM TULLEY: Detainees are searched upon entry into the centre. They're searched before going into solitary confinement. They're searched before leaving the centre, before having visits. They're also searched when they're moved onto E wing, if it relates to any sort of drug abuse or drug overdose.

When this detainee, DX was admitted onto E wing, I was tasked with searching him. I searched him just as we normally do, as staff normally would.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Sorry. Stop there. I'm just going to cut there.

CALLUM TULLEY: Searches are an everyday occurrence in Brook House. We do a number of searches every day. We've all been taught to search the same way. We conduct searches pretty much all in the exact same way as we've been taught and as we've been demonstrated to do so. We search detainees when they come into the centre or when they go on visits, when they leave the centre, when they're admitted into solitary confinement, among other times, when they leave the kitchen.

There are so many times when detainees are searched by officers. It happens on such a regular basis.

I found this detainee, this Vietnamese detainee on A wing, high on spice, in his room. He was then taken to E wing so he could be monitored to see how his welfare was. Despite being searched on his way in, he managed to smoke -- fuck sake. I'll try that again. Can you ask me that again?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

CALLUM TULLEY: After I'd seen the Vietnamese guy on spice in his room, he was moved onto E wing, which is meant to be the securest wing in the centre. It's got a population of a maximum of 20 detainees. It's where the tightest security is. It's where the people who pose the highest security risk to the centre are held, among other people. Despite that, he managed to smoke spice on the wing. He was searched when entering the wing so either he managed to smuggle something on or there was already spice circulating around that wing when he went onto it.

After I found this Vietnamese detainee in his room on spice, he was moved to E wing so he could be monitored. E wing is the most secure wing on the centre. Nothing should be getting onto that wing. No previous items, no contraband, nothing. I don't know what to say. Yeah, I was told this, that. Shall I start again?

MALE SPEAKER 2: No. Just pick it up from there.

CALLUM TULLEY: Okay. He was meant to be down there so he could be monitored, so his welfare could -- no. I'm just trying to say why he was meant to be down there because he was meant to be down there so he could be in a controlled environment. But instead he -- fuck sake.

MALE SPEAKER 2: It's all right.

CALLUM TULLEY: It's just pissing me off because it's late and I just don't want to be doing this shit right now. So, what am I saying, mate?

MALE SPEAKER 2: Go.

CALLUM TULLEY: After this medical response on A wing, this detainee from Vietnam was taken down to E wing so he could basically be monitored to ensure that he could recover from the spice attack that he had basically had. I was told that after he went onto the wing he smoked it again. He smoked spice again and another medical response was required. He was searched, I was told, when he went onto the wing, as he should have been, as is protocol, but still managed to smoke spice. He either managed to bring it in somehow or it was already on E wing, which is meant to be the secure wing on the centre, the highest security wing in Brook House.

Then there was a second medical response. This detainee from Trinidad and Tobago, who was having a seizure on the top floor of A wing, after smoking spice. He, too, had to be brought down to E wing. This time it was me who was searching him in, as is protocol. I searched him just as I normally would, just as staff do in Brook House in the normal manner that it happens.

But later on, another medical response was called. He was found having another seizure on the wing, after smoking yet more spice. I mean, we search detainees but we don't do full searches. We don't do strip searches. There are certain places we can't touch or look, for obvious reasons. So it's possible, I suppose, that drugs got in. Coincidentally maybe both detainees had drugs on them and brought them onto E wing and were able to smoke them. Or, there were already drugs on E wing. If that's the case then that's quite serious really because nothing should be getting onto E wing. Sorry mate. It's all right there, isn't it?

MALE SPEAKER 2: That's fine.

CALLUM TULLEY: Sure? When I found D687 he was sat on the toilet seat with a ligature round his neck attached to a handle bar, which was a couple of metres above the toilet seat. If he slipped off that seat or if he deliberately came off it hard enough, he could have done himself some serious damage. He could have broken his neck. He could have choked himself. Brook House, it's not a mental institution. It's built like a prison. There are ligature points around the prison. Sorry Josh, I think mate, it's not your fault, it's just because I'm so incapable of actually responding to a --

So, I walked into the toilet and I found this Somali detainee and he had basically used his T shirt to make a noose, which he had tied around his neck and attached to a handle bar, which was just up the wall -- fucking hell. I don't know why I make something so fucking complicated to myself.

Yeah. Sure. I walked into the toilet and found this Somalian detainee who had basically used his T shirt to make a -- oh, God. It's incredible. When I walked into the toilet, I saw this Somalian detainee sat on the toilet seat with a noose around his neck, which he had made with his T shirt. It was attached to a handle bar, just above the toilet. He was saying he was going come off, he was going to self-harm. If [D687] had accidentally slipped off that toilet seat or deliberately pushed himself off it, then he could have broken his neck. He could have done himself some serious, serious damage. Brook House just isn't built for people like him. It's not built for people like the Egyptians who want to strange themselves. It's not a mental institution. People shouldn't be able to just hang themselves if they want to. It's built like a prison. It's not made for these people. It's not fit for purpose. Sorry Josh.

MALE SPEAKER 2: No. That was fine.

CALLUM TULLEY: Sorry mate. Maybe cut again.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Okay.

CALLUM TULLEY: I was told by a wing officer and I was told by a reception officer that the young Pakistani boy had been taken into care by Social Services. So clearly he wasn't 18 as the Home Office said he was. He must have been a child otherwise Social Services wouldn't have taken him in. It's just shocking that a boy of this age, this young, was being incarcerated in a place where there are murderers, drug dealers, violent criminals and paedophiles as well, who could have preyed on

this young boy. I can't believe that he was allowed to be put in Brook House and in prison there for the time that he was. It's just incredible. You can't write this stuff.

During the medical response that followed the guy from Trinidad and -- sorry mate. It's a bit of a mouthful, that. During the medical response that followed the detainee from Trinidad and Tobago smoking spice, some of the officers were searching his room and this one officer found three things. One of them was a shank, which is basically like a home-made knife, really. A lot of the time detainees will burn a toothbrush. A lot of the time detainees will burn a toothbrush in a plug socket and then stick a razor blade in it, once it's melted, wait for it to solidify and then they have a shank. That's just once example of what a shank could be. He also found a mobile phone. Sorry. He also found an Android mobile phone, which are banned in the centre. This guy was able to take photos. He was able to access the Internet. He would have been able to make various calls. The third thing that was found were bank notes, bank details. So it's very likely that the guy's in this room were using this mobile phone to basically deal drugs, transfer money from accounts to accounts in exchange for drugs coming into the centre. So it's quite a serious breach of security but also some quite serious -- sorry, man. Actually I think that's that, really.

MALE SPEAKER 2: Yeah.