

Transcript created by Epiq

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CALLUM TULLEY: Let's get the first ones out the way.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Rolling.

CALLUM TULLEY: So, I was in the activities office with another officer called Dan, and he was talking about this trip that he's planned in America, and how he was going to miss out. Oh shit, I've forgotten the name of the place. It doesn't really matter, does it? Oh, and he was saying how he was going to miss out Cleveland, and I was saying -- I basically asked him why he wanted to do that. And he said, "Because it's got a high black population". He doesn't like blacks.

And then I can't remember exactly how the conversation went, but another activities officer then asks him, like, "Why don't you like it? Why don't you like Cleveland?" And he says, "No blacks", doesn't like the blacks, or something along those lines. And so, obviously Dan's demonstrated to me just some really racist attitudes. And he was on his way out the office, so I didn't really get a chance to ask him, you know, "What do you have against black people?" But I mean, I did try, but he was halfway out the door, and as I asked, a manager walked past, so he then replied, "Nothing", you know, with like a smile on his face. And that was that really.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: I'm asking you how you feel about any of that sort of thing, but the only thing is just is that sort of you appropriate, given who he's working with?

CALLUM TULLEY: Obviously not. Sorry. I mean, such a large population of Brook House are black, African detainees, detainees from the Caribbean.

There is just -- there are just so many black people in Brook House, and to think that someone with those attitudes has been employed at Brook House is just completely inappropriate.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: What else today, my friend?

CALLUM TULLEY: So, there was this -- there was a -- I was sat in the IT room in the morning, and -- oh, fuck's sake, sorry, mate, I should try and speak with a bit more energy. There was -- I was in the IT room for the morning, and at about 10 o'clock, maybe half ten, in walks the remaining detainee who I had to restrain just three days ago now. And I expected some sort of abuse, or maybe even some sort of level of violence, but he was actually all right with me, he was surprisingly - - surprisingly friendly actually.

So, in a way, it put me at ease, because it was nice to know that this guy wasn't coming after me, because he did recognise me from the restraint. And we had this brief conversation really, it was quite strange, where he acknowledged that I was just doing my job and blah blah blah. But then when he left, I just was hit by this, like, frustration really that -- because he shouldn't be there, you know, he was meant to be removed last week. And he's now sat in the IT room asking me to print stuff out for him, which I have to do, and it's just not right. He's committed some serious offences, and he's managed to evade his flight. And you know, I don't -- I just don't -- I don't see -- I don't really see how that's acceptable. Brook House is an immigration removal centre, and he was meant to be removed from the country, and he's back.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: What else today, my friend?

CALLUM TULLEY: None of this is on camera, which is annoying, but I'm going to put it in the -- I'll just say it anyway.

I was in the library in the afternoon, and unexpectedly, I felt this tugging on my keys, on my key -- unexpectedly, I felt this tugging on my key pouch. And I looked round to find this detainee, just basically -- just fiddling with my keys. And he said he was joking, but in a place like Brook House that sort of stuff is completely unacceptable for obvious reasons. You know, he could be trying to escape.

And so, I put in a security information report, which is basically just something I hand into the security department, to inform them of what has happened. And they deem it appropriate to move him to CSU, to solitary confinement, as a result of his behaviour. Also because of his history as well, which is -- he is deemed escape risk. So, he's tried similar things in the past.

So, at five o'clock they moved him down to solitary confinement, and I was told by a number of officers later on in the day that he didn't go quietly, he kicked up a massive, massive fuss. And I did know this restraint was taking place, but obviously I could not even try and go near it because, you know, it was my report that resulted in it. So, if he even saw a glimpse of me, then it would have ignited and the situation would have, you know, caused -- and that wouldn't have been good for the people restraining him, it could have made life a lot more difficult for those guys.

So, I stayed clear of the restraint when I knew it was going on. And yeah, I mean, I was told that it was just a really messy restraint, where he fought all the way down to -- all the way from D Wing to

E Wing. And then, when he was in the cell, he was kicking off and saying to Yan that he was going to come for me, and was making threats to me, and saying he was going to kill my family and Yan's family, and saying all this stuff.

So, that happened today as well. None of the -- yeah, that's just something I've thrown in there, Joe, just in case, at a later date, you know, it pops up and he sees me on association or something, it's something to refer back to. But other than that, I don't think there -- it was quite a quiet day, like -- oh shit. Nothing really happened, so --

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Okay. If we cut for a second, Joe.

MALE INTERVIEWER 1: Cut.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: How many things do you have to try to think about every day, like today?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah. It's crazy really, the amount of stuff I've got just to think about, the amount of stuff I've got to remember every day. I've got to obviously do the job as an officer that everyone has to do in the centre, to the level I'm expected to do it, you know, and try not to draw any sort of unnecessary attention to myself. So, I have to try and do that job very well. And then, of course, I have to film what's happening in the centre every day, to the best of my ability, based on the training I've been given. And that's not easy, responding to incidents, dealing with the incidents in my capacity as an officer, but also trying to film.

And then also, being a journalist on top of that, remembering every shift what's gone on in previous shifts, and exploring those subjects, exploring the interesting detainees, looking at the interesting officers, asking them questions, whilst maintaining cover, not being seen to care too much about the detainees of the centre. And it's difficult, because you just -- you're juggling all these three things at once, and sometimes they contradict each other, you can't do one without compromising another, and just constantly having to weigh up risks and think about what the best thing to do is in any given situation, and it varies. You know, sometimes I have to make decisions not to film if it's unsafe to do so. For example, you know, someone could see me flicking with a switch in my pocket, and then I have to judge, you know.

Let me just think of another example. You know, of course, obviously I need to ask a certain amount of questions. I mean, I need to ask officers questions to get their views on things, ask detainees questions to get their views on things, but at the same time, I don't want anyone to suspect me, or anyone to think I'm behaving out of character. So, it is difficult. It's extremely, extremely difficult to hit the right spots in those three categories, and just get the footage you need, and ask the questions you need to ask, and then also do the job that you need to do. And it's just -- sometimes, it does feel like an impossible task.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Joe, if you could cut.

MALE INTERVIEWER 1: Am I rolling?

CALLUM TULLEY: Sure.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: The Nigerian detainee who was not removed to another detention centre more than a week ago, what have you seen him doing?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, this detainee from Nigeria was meant to be removed from Brook House to another detention centre over a week ago. He's not even meant to be in the country, he's meant to be deported, but you know, never mind that, he should have been transferred last week over -- oh, for fuck's sake, sorry. He should have been transferred over a week ago.

He's late to bang up, he's disrespectful, he bullies and intimidates officers and detainees. And here, we basically see him terrorising a small group of Asian detainees as well. There's the stand-off between one group of detainees at the top of the stairs, who are mates with the Nigerian, and then there's this group of Asian detainees at the bottom of the stairs. And they've had a disagreement and there's a stand-off, and staff are stood in between them, stopping people going past and sort of getting to each other, basically.

Apart from [D87], [D87] allowed to just stroll down and do as he pleases. And you know, it's not the first time we've seen [D87] dictate what goes on in Brook House. He just -- he's obviously decided he doesn't want to leave Brook House and go to another detention centre. He told the escorts that, and basically, he didn't go, you know. That's -- he calls the shots, and that was just another demonstration of that.

Yeah, there's a line of officers stood between this Nigerian detainee and his mates, and the Asian detainees, who they're having a stand-off with. And he strolls down the stairs, and this line of officers just opens up, and he strolls through. And it's just -- it's -- the whole point of them being there was to prevent a fight taking place, was to prevent one set of detainees from getting to another. And once they saw [D87] they thought, "No, no, we'll disperse", and through he went.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: And what was it like when he was stood right by the Asian detainees? Describe that. I mean, was he towering over them?

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, I mean, he was -- yeah, he was towering over this group of Asian detainees, and no officer dared to stop him. And I mean, there's -- yeah, sorry. Yeah, no officer -- sorry, mate. He was towering over this group of Asian detainees, and no officer dared to stop him, he was just free to stand there and intimidate, and to do as he pleased really. And it was only thanks to an Afghan detainee who came and basically mediated between them, and calmed things down, and spoke with them both, and everything sort of settled down after that. But it wasn't the officers who resolved the situation, it had to be another detainee.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: And one -- cut.

CALLUM TULLEY: Sorry, mate, ask.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: So, what you have you been told about [D3969]

CALLUM TULLEY: I'm told that D3969's passport -- sorry, shall I say Pakistani boy?

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Yeah, just --

CALLUM TULLEY: Or shall I -- yeah, his. I'm told that his passport says he's 18 years old, but none of the officers believe that that's right. Do it again, mate?

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: And is there any punishment for people found with small amounts of drugs?

CALLUM TULLEY: There's no punishment whatsoever for people found with any amount of drugs really, unless the police are involved, and it becomes a criminal case. There's no procedures in place at Brook House to punish detainees who are found in possession of drugs. Sorry, mate, I complicated that, I can just give you a simple answer.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: They do take them down to the block, don't they?

CALLUM TULLEY: They don't take detainees to the block if they're found in possession of drugs. If detainees are found under the influence of drugs, they'll be put on E Wing for a period of time, until they're better, basically. But detainees aren't taken to the block if they're found with drugs. The block's used for detainees who are fighting, who attempt risk -- fuck, sorry, mate. Yeah, whatever, I'm sorry.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: What does it do to the discipline of the centre?

CALLUM TULLEY: Sorry?

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: What does it do to the discipline of the centre, detainees not being punished for having drugs?

CALLUM TULLEY: Well, I mean, yeah, detainees not being punished for having drugs is just -- it has a massive knock-on effect to the other centre. Obviously, there's no deterrent for drug -- there's no deterrent for drug dealing within the centre. So, you know, when -- if detainees have to weigh up the pros and cons between -- if detainees -- fuck this fucking shit, mate, sorry.

I don't know what to say. Can you ask the question again?

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Does it matter if detainees aren't punished when they're found with drugs?

CALLUM TULLEY: Well, if there's no deterrent to stop detainees bringing in drugs, or possessing drugs from the centre, then I don't know how anyone really expects G4S to address the drug problem within the centre. I just -- it's not going to happen. You know, people are just going to carry on bringing them in, bringing them in, bringing them in, because once they've got them in their possession, then even if they're caught, nothing will happen. So, they can either smoke them, sell them.

Maybe they'll get caught with them but the worst thing that's going to happen is that they'll just get their drugs confiscated. There will be no punishment, there will be no consequences to possession of drugs in Brook House.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Good. Are you okay?

CALLUM TULLEY: Are we ready, yeah?

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Yeah.

CALLUM TULLEY: I was on B Wing, and this detainee in Room 7 was not very happy that he wasn't transferred to another centre. And I notice that he hadn't eaten his lunch, so I went to his room to ask him, you know "Why haven't you eaten? Come on mate, you know, come and get some food". You try to encourage them to eat a bit. And he was saying, "No", he was refusing to eat because he wasn't happy about being in Brook House. And I said, "Okay", and just carried on going around.

And I told a manager, Nathan Wing, that this detainee was refusing to eat. And obviously, he wasn't -- well, he may -- yeah, I mean, and yeah, I told this manager, Nathan Ring, that this detainee wasn't eating, and was refusing to take his food. And Nathan Ring was just basically, like, "Fuck him", and crossed off -- and marked by his name on the list that he had eaten for the day. Well actually, no, that's not what happened. He told me to do that, sorry.

So, I went up to a manager called Nathan Ring, and told him that this detainee was refusing to take his food for lunch, and he basically said, "Fuck him", and told me to cross his name off the list, to say that he'd taken his lunch. And obviously, if that detainee's on hunger strike, then it's quite a serious -- that's quite a serious thing. It's quite a serious thing if a detainee's on -- sorry, mate.

For a detainee to be on hunger strike is quite a serious thing. And then, you know, to --

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Can you hear a ticking noise? There's a weird ticking noise I'm hearing. It's down there.

CALLUM TULLEY: Maybe that's because I've turned this on.

MALE SPEAKER: It wasn't picking it up.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: I was hearing it. So, if I can hear it, usually the camera can.

CALLUM TULLEY: Sorry, mate.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Don't be. Go ahead. So, Nathan Ring.

CALLUM TULLEY: Yeah, let me try and get -- re-word that. You make me laugh, Joe, sorry.

Right. I went up to a manager on the wing, Nathan -- sorry. I went up to a manager called Nathan Ring, and asked him, "What shall I do? This detainee in Room 7 is refusing to take his food". And that can be a quite a serious thing, when a detainee doesn't want to eat. He's basically on hunger strike. He's made a statement of fact, he will not eat until he's transferred.

And the manager, Nathan, said, "Fuck him", and just told me to cross his name off the list to say he'd eaten. And that's what I did, but obviously that isn't what is meant to happen, you know, he's meant to go down as a food refusal, which is basically where someone is put

under some level of monitoring because they're refusing to eat.

That's it.

MALE INTERVIEWER 2: Cool.