



Tayside Regional Council

Social Work Department
Dundee Division
72-74, Haldane Terrace,
DUNDEE.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT

The following person:—

Surname..... **TARBETT**

Christian Names
or forenames..... **David, Derek and Graham**

Address

1. 3-12-67

2. 6-04-70

Date of Birth... 3. 27-1-69

Religion

Occupation.....

Marital State.....

is to appear on **3rd September, 1980,** at **DUNDEE CHILDREN'S HEARING** Court in connection
with the crime or offence of.....

Previous Appearances as known to the Officer making the Report.....

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Since the last Children's Hearing involving this family, the domestic situation is as confused and disorganised as ever.

On 13th August, shortly before 9 p.m. Tommy Tarbett (aged 7), and two other boys were reported to the Duty Social Worker by the Sister at Dundee Royal Infirmary Casualty Department. Tommy had received treatment after being grazed by a car. However, Sister had to call the police who traced Mr Tarbett to the Arctiv Bar and told him to collect the boys. Mr Tarbett phoned Dundee Royal Infirmary and informed them (at 10 p.m.) that he intended to call for the boys.

By midnight, however, the boys, Tommy and Derek Tarbett and a young lad named [REDACTED] had not been collected. Sister contacted the police who she alleged were reluctant to contact Mr Tarbett again. It was then that the Duty Social Worker called the hospital and was informed that Mr Tarbett had again been seen by the police and told to get the children which he had since done. Mr Tarbett claims that he had left the children in care of [REDACTED]

During the school holidays, Graham Tarbett was allowed home from Monkton Hadley School. David and Derek were allowed home from Florence Booth House and Roineach Mhor respectively for the period 5th June, 1980, until 19th June, 1980.

However, they were not returned to these establishments after the permitted period.

I called at the house on two occasions, but got no reply at the door. I went off on holiday in August but advised my Senior, Mr J.R. Anderson, of the situation before I left.

During my absence Mr Anderson established, during an office interview, with Mr Tarbett, that he was refusing to send any of the children home and that he intended to request a Children's Hearing Review of this case.

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Mr Anderson reminded Mr Tarbett of possible police action in this case but Mr Tarbett did not seem to care about the consequences of his actions. Mr Tarbett was given a deadline for the return of the children but chose to ignore it.

Mr Anderson is at present on holiday, but prior to his leave he discussed the matter with Mr Birrell, Senior Social Worker, who is deputising for him at present. They both were of the opinion that due to the imminence of a Hearing on this case it would be in the best interests of the children to refrain from police proceedings against Mr Tarbett at the moment.

On the 21st August I was called to 40 Dunmore Street by officers of the R.S.S.P.C.C. and the police. All five of the Tarbett children had been dumped at that address following a violent argument between Mr and Mrs Tarbett. As a result of this argument Mrs Tarbett sustained a black eye.

At approximately 8.00 a.m. the children, with Mrs Tarbett, arrived at 40 Dunmore Street requesting to use the telephone to call a taxi to take them to Mrs Tarbett's mother's house in Mid Craigie, 4 Armour Place, Dundee.

The children refused to go with Mrs Tarbett when she left at 8.10 a.m. approximately. Mr Tarbett requested that the residents of No. 40 Dunmore Street looked after the children for 10 minutes.

The R.S.S.P.C.C. were called at 10.00 a.m. by the residents at No. 40 Dunmore Street. We escorted the children to my office at Haldane Terrace and subsequently Mrs Tarbett arrived in the company of an R.S.S.P.C.C. inspector.

She verbally agreed to Tommy and Lisa (6 years old) being accepted into Section 15 Care as the domestic situation was, at that time, uncertain.

Mrs Tarbett went to her mother's house at Armour Place once the children were placed.

Tommy and Lisa were placed in Duncan Place Children's Home. I escorted Graham back to Monkten Hadley School in Newton Stewart. David was returned to Florence Booth House and Derek, after a struggle (see R.S.S.P.C.C. report attached) was returned to Roineach Mhor).

The following day, Mr Tarbett telephoned me and asked why I had not contacted him. I told him that I had escorted Graham to Monkten Hadley and had not arrived home until 11.00 p.m. and so had no opportunity to contact him even if I had known where he was. I then arranged to meet Mr Tarbett at Paradise Road that afternoon.

However, I was informed by the staff at Duncan Place that Tommy (7 years old) had run away. I had seen Tommy and Lisa that morning and they seemed quite happy to be in care at that time.

I contacted my Area Controller (acting) and advised him that I was going to look for Tommy, accompanied by another social worker.

Mr Tarbett appeared at Paradise Road and was seen by Mr Birrell. Mr Tarbett agreed to leave the situation as it was until after the weekend to let things settle down at home.

Mr Tarbett was to see me on the Monday following at 10.00 a.m. and then if he so wished, collect the children.

Mr and Mrs Tarbett collected the children two hours later than arranged following an appearance in Court on the Monday morning. They had been arrested and charged with Breach of the Peace on Sunday evening after an incident at a club where Mr Tarbett was employed as a doorman.

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In a subsequent interview at home, Mr and Mrs Tarbett informed me that they want all their children home. Mr Tarbett was awarded £1,100 compensation for an industrial accident to his hand. Consequently he has cleared his electric bills and the power supply is reconnected.

He is paying off his rent arrears at present and re-decorating his house in anticipation of a new one being granted to his family.

ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATION:

During the past year there has been no real progress with the Tarbett family. Mr and Mrs Tarbett have failed to work out their relationship problems and periodic marital break ups are part of their normal routine.

Mr Tarbett fails to understand that we are trying to help his children's development and his behaviour more often aggravates than eases the situation.

His open defiance of the existing residential orders on Graham, Derek and David, is typical of his scant regard for the agencies involved in this case. He also fails to see his family situation in total as being problematical. Rather he interprets each child's problems as being brought on by the authorities constantly interfering in his family.

The hero worship of Mr Tarbett by his children is the main stumbling block to any effective work with them at present.

It was felt that Derek would benefit from a placement in Glasclune Children's Home, a Bernardos home near Edinburgh.

However, both myself and the Roineach Mhor staff feel that such a placement would be an abject waste of time and effort at the moment because of the Tarbetts attitude to residential care and to Derek's behaviour in Roineach Mhor.

While I feel that it would be in the childrens best interests to grow up in a settled, stimulating environment, as can be provided in residential care, given the co-operation of all parties concerned, at present I think that David and Derek would be better off at home as they will not settle in placements so close to home.

Graham's placement at Monkton Hadley, while not pleasing to his parents, is helping him. However, it may be that the Panel might consider that I should approach the Education Department again to establish if they would consider returning him to an ordinary school in Dundee.

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 MR B. HINNIE,
 Social Worker.