



Tayside Regional Council

Social Work Department

Dundee Division AREA 2,

72/74 Haldane Terrace,  
Dundee.

JW

## SOCIAL BACKGROUND REPORT

The following person:—

Surname.....TARBETT

David: 3 12 67  
Derek: 6 4 70

Date of Birth.....

Christian Names David and Derek  
or forenames.....

Religion.....Protestant

Address.....41 Dunmore Street,  
Dundee.

Occupation.....Schoolboys

Marital State.....N/A

is to appear on 15 October, 1980 at ..... at Dundee Children's Hearing..... Court in connection  
with the crime or offence of..... 10.15a.m. 48(2) Review

Previous Appearances as known to the Officer making the Report:

SUPPLEMENTARY

School Report on David Tarbett attached.

Following the recent hearing on the Tarbett family September 3, 1980, there have yet again been dramatic upheavals in the domestic situation. On Monday 15 September, both myself and my senior, Mr. J.R. Anderson, were in attendance at the Reporter's office in connection with a children's hearing in respect of other cases. Mr. Tarbett was along with Tommy, Lisa and David Tarbett waiting in one of the reception rooms 'on the off chance' that a social worker would be present that evening. I was informed that Mr. Tarbett wished to speak to me, as his wife had deserted the family home and this would necessitate him placing the children into our care. As I had two children's hearings to deal with Mr. Anderson interviewed Mr. Tarbett and clearly stated to him that he was unwilling to look after all four children and as a direct result of this the four children were initially placed in Roineach Mhor Assessment Centre on an emergency basis. Due to the fact that there was no vacancies locally in the Dundee area it was necessary to remove David Tommy and Lisa to Nimmo Place, Children's Home, Perth, on Friday 19 September. That same day Derek absconded from Duncarse School in the company of another lad. He turned up later at home and the following Monday Mr. Tarbett contacted me to inform me that he was willing to look after Derek pending this hearing.

On Tuesday 16 September, Mr. Tarbett signed all four children into Section 15 Care of this Department. At an office interview on Wednesday 17 September, both Mr. Anderson and myself indicated to Mr. Tarbett that we were not satisfied with the way the children were being treated during these domestic squabbles with his wife, we felt that they were in danger of developing into 'yo-yo' kids and put it to him that it would be the intention of this department to seek long term care for the children as we felt that it would be in their best interests. Again Mr. Tarbett indicated to us that he would be unable to look after four children while his wife was in desertion of the home.

On Friday September 26 I received a phone call from both Mr. and Mrs. Tarbett who said that they had been reunited, Mrs. Tarbett having absconded to Glasgow and Mr. Tarbett having gone to retrieve her.



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Mrs. Tarbett was quite upset on the telephone and said that she wanted all her children back. I told her that I would like to see both her and her husband in the office that day, an offer which they both refused saying that they would leave the kids until Monday. I then arranged an appointment with me at 10.30a.m. on Monday. Later that day I visited the Tarbett children. All three seemed quite happy with their places at Nimmo Place, and expressed a desire to stay there. David the eldest felt that in the long run he would like to return home but felt that his parents would need some time to stabilise their relationship and provide a secure home base. Tommy and Lisa were quite content, they informed me, to stay in Nimmo Place.

On Monday 29 September, the Tarbetts failed to appear for their meeting with me at 10.30. I was in telephone contact with Nimmo Place, and was advised by the staff on duty there that the Tarbetts had telephoned at the weekend and promised to visit, they had not, however, done so. Later that day, Monday 29, when I was out of the office it was brought to our attention that young David had absconded from school with one of his school friends, and he was later retrieved by Mr. J. Marr, S.W.A. from the police in Auchterarder. He stated to John Marr that he was heading for Glasgow.

The following day Tuesday 30 September, I was off with a heavy cold, but there was a telephone call from Mr. Tarbett to my senior Mr. Anderson. Mr. Tarbett expressed a desire to arrange a visit to see the children. Mr. Anderson said that this was a good idea and asked Mr. Tarbett to contact him later in the afternoon to get something fixed up. Mr. Tarbett, however, did not get in touch with Mr. Anderson that afternoon. He did, however, telephone Nimmo Place Children's Home, that evening, but was not allowed to speak to the kids. The member of staff concerned, Mrs. Stewart, phoned the next day and Mr. Anderson explained to her that there must have been a misunderstanding because it was not our intention to prevent the Tarbetts from speaking to their children.

Upon my return from sick leave on Friday October 3 I took part in a discussion at Kirkton Sub Office between my Area Controller, Assistant Area Controller, my senior and myself regarding the Tarbett family. Although it was felt that positive decisions were difficult to make until a proper assessment had been made of the children, the general feeling was that long term care would seem to be the most desirable outcome of this case. Later that evening I accidentally bumped into Mr. Tarbett in the centre of the town. He again confirmed that it was his intention to have the children back home. I again requested that I meet with both himself and his wife to discuss the matter and indicated to him that we felt that we were acting in the best interests of the children.

On Wednesday 8 October, following the two day public holiday I was informed by my senior Mr. J.R. Anderson, that David Tarbett and his wife had turned up at Nimmo Place on Saturday evening the 4 October and after raising a hullabaloo which involved three members of the Perth constabulary, Mr. and Mrs. Dingwall, and telephone contact with Mr. R. Stevens, Residential Services Manager, and Mr. J. Anderson, my senior, Mr. Tarbett took all his children home, as it had been impossible for Mr. Anderson to have a Place of Safety Order implemented in respect of the children.

It is the feeling of my department that the Tarbett children are in severe danger of becoming yo-yo children. The parents while unquestionably having affection for their children do not seem to be able, or willing, to comprehend our fears over the childrens future development, they seem quite content with their lifestyle of desertions and constant arguments within the family, and do not feel that they are adversely affecting the children. Given the history of desertions and neglect by the Tarbetts of their children as is outlined in the attached report, it is felt by the Social Work Department that steps should be taken to take the Tarbett children into long term care.

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With a view to this the Reporter is at present drawing up grounds for referral in respect of young Tommy and Lisa, because of their ages this will undoubtedly have to be presented before the Sheriff.

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As this plan should not be too long in fruition, I would like to request that today's hearing be continued in order that once a date is set for Tommy and Lisa all the Tarbett children can be considered at the same time. The only other alternative would seem to be open in this case, is a complete discharge of all existing orders, given the total lack of co-operation on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Tarbett. They have no regard at all for statutory powers imposed upon their children, they have no time for any plans which are outlined or attempts to be discussed with them by myself or any other social workers. However, I do not feel that such a disposal would realistically be of any benefit to the children.

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*B. Hinnie*  
Mr. B. Hinnie,  
Social Worker.

I will attend the hearing