

1. My name is CHRISTINE MARY ANNE HASTINGS (née McManus). I currently live at 2046 Diamond Springs Drive, Houston, Texas 77077 U.S.A. I qualified as a Solicitor in England and became a member of the Law Society of England and Wales on 28th January 1993.
2. I was born and raised in London and in 1976 I was living at 5 Camden Square, London N.W.1. I was 11 years old. My family moved from 5 Camden Square to 63A Agar Grove in the summer of 1976. Both properties were owned by the local authority Camden Council. 5 Camden Square was a very dilapidated property and needed a lot of repairs and upgrading. For example, we did not have a kitchen sink and squatters had occupied the floor above us. By contrast 63A Agar Grove had just been renovated by Camden Council and upon completion of the works the Council offered to re-house my family there. We accepted and moved in that summer. It was the year of the 'big drought' and it was very hot weather, not ideal conditions for moving house.
3. My family occupied the lower maisonette at 63A Agar Grove. The front door was to the side of the property. There was a very large back garden. This could be accessed either by going out the front door and continuing along the passage at the side of the house to the garden or through double patio doors from the main bedroom which was located at the back of the house on the ground floor.
4. Initially I shared the main bedroom with my mother. We were very pleased to have patio doors from the bedroom opening on to the garden. This allowed us to open the doors and let the cool air flow through the house without having to leave the front door open. The lower half of the doors were wood but the top half had slatted windows, 2 sections on each door. At night we would leave some of the slats open to cool the room. We felt safe enough to do that then. Both houses on either side also had patio doors.
5. Some years later I was in the house on my own one evening. I was in the living room which is directly above the main bedroom. I heard a noise and realized there were people breaking in and that they were coming in through the slatted windows in the patio doors. I managed to get out of the house and raise the alarm with my neighbour next door who called the police. We had the patio doors replaced after that with a more secure version.
6. There were definitely patio doors in the house on the day we moved in.

Signed:

Dated:

11th May 2021