IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF
THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

[2026] SGHC 10

Criminal Case No 29 of 2025

Between

Public Prosecutor

And

DCC

JUDGMENT

[Evidence — Witnesses — Corroboration]
[Criminal Law — Offences — Rape]
[Criminal Law — Offences — Sexual offences]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **1**

UNDISPUTED FACTS **2**

THE PROSECUTION'S VERSION OF EVENTS **4**

THE INCIDENTS 4

THE FIRST FAMILY MEETING 7

AFTER THE FIRST FAMILY MEETING 9

CHARGE A1 10

CHARGE A3 10

CHARGE A2 11

THE SECOND FAMILY MEETING 12

AFTER THE SECOND FAMILY MEETING 14

C'S 12TH BIRTHDAY 14

C'S REALISATION THAT SHE HAD BEEN RAPED BY DCC 15

THE LAPTOP INCIDENT 16

INFORMING CGF ABOUT THE INCIDENTS OF RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT 16

INFORMING CMR AND CFR 17

THE POLICE REPORT 20

THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE 20

THE DEFENCE'S VERSION OF EVENTS **22**

STRUCTURE OF ANALYSIS **23**

IS THERE CORROBORATION IN THE PRESENT CASE? **23**

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

THE APPLICABLE STANDARD **25**

THE DEFENCE'S CONTENTIONS ON C'S EVIDENCE **26**

C'S "FIRST REVEAL" 27

EVIDENCE INVOLVING REVELATIONS TO CGF 28

The CCTV feed *29*

C's message that her brother "saw [DCC] doing it" *32*

C saying that she was "still pure" and a "virgin" *34*

Other inconsistencies raised *35*

THE ZIP-LOCK BAG INCIDENT 37

GENERALITY OF C'S EVIDENCE 41

ANAL PENETRATION 42

Digital-anal penetration *43*

Penile-anal penetration *44*

C'S CONTINUED PRESENCE ON THE THIRD FLOOR AFTER THE FIRST FAMILY MEETING 47

C's explanations *53*

The familial factors relevant to the context of C's explanations *55*

WAS C UNUSUALLY CONVINCING? **64**

CHARGE A1 67

CHARGE A3 67

CHARGE A2 67

CASE MOUNTED BY THE DEFENCE **68**

CONSISTENCY OF DCC'S DENIALS 68

THE DEFENCE'S IMPLAUSIBILITY ARGUMENTS 70

Implausibility because the door could not be locked *70*

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Implausibility because of lack of opportunity *76*

(1) Lack of time spent together.....76

(2) Presence of others at the residence.....80

Additional implausibility arguments *82*

ARE THERE ANY LUCAS LIES? 84

CREDIBILITY OF AMR.....85

THE DEFENCE'S EVIDENCE ON THE TWO FAMILY MEETINGS.....87

SUMMATION ON THE DEFENCE'S EVIDENCE 89

CONCLUSION.....89

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

This judgment is subject to final editorial corrections approved by the court and/or redaction pursuant to the publisher's duty in compliance with the law, for publication in LawNet and/or the Singapore Law Reports.

Public Prosecutor
v
DCC

[2026] SGHC 10

General Division of the High Court — Criminal Case No 29 of 2025
Valerie Thean J
5, 8, 9, 13–15 May, 11, 19–21 August, 9–12, 16, 17 September, 14–17, 21, 22 October, 4 December 2025

15 January 2026 Judgment reserved.

Valerie Thean J:

Introduction

1 The complainant ("C"), at present aged 18, is the cousin of the accused ("DCC"), at present aged 22.[1]

2 DCC faces three charges alleged to have arisen between 2016 to 2018, when C was between eight and ten years of age:[2]

> 1st Charge ("A1") That you, …, sometime between 2016 and 2018, in the master bedroom of [the Residence], Singapore, did penetrate with your penis the vagina of [C], a woman then under 14 years of age, without her consent, and you have thereby committed an offence under section 375(1)(*b*) punishable under section 375(3)(*b*) of the Penal Code (Cap 224, 2008 Rev Ed) [the "PC"].

---

1 Agreed Statement of Facts dated 5 May 2025 ("ASOF") at paras 2–3.

2 Arraigned Charges (amended) dated 15 May 2025.

> 2nd Charge ("A2") That you, …, on a second occasion sometime between 2016 and 2018, in the master bedroom of [the Residence], Singapore, did penetrate with your penis the vagina of [C], a woman then under 14 years of age, without her consent, and you have thereby committed an offence under section 375(1)(*b*) punishable under section 375(3)(*b*) of the PC.
>
> 3rd Charge ("A3") That you, …, sometime between 2016 and 2018, in the master bedroom of [the Residence], Singapore, did penetrate with your fingers the vagina of [C], a woman then under 14 years of age, without her consent, and you have thereby committed an offence under section 376(2)(*a*) punishable under section 376(4)(*b*) of the PC.

3 DCC denies that any of the alleged instances of rape or sexual assault occurred.

Undisputed facts

4 From the time C was two months' old, she was cared for by her grandmother every weekday in the home of her aunt, the mother of DCC.[3] Her parents would attend each evening to have dinner and to bring C home. When C's brothers were born, this babysitting arrangement came to include her brothers and her parents employed a helper to assist.

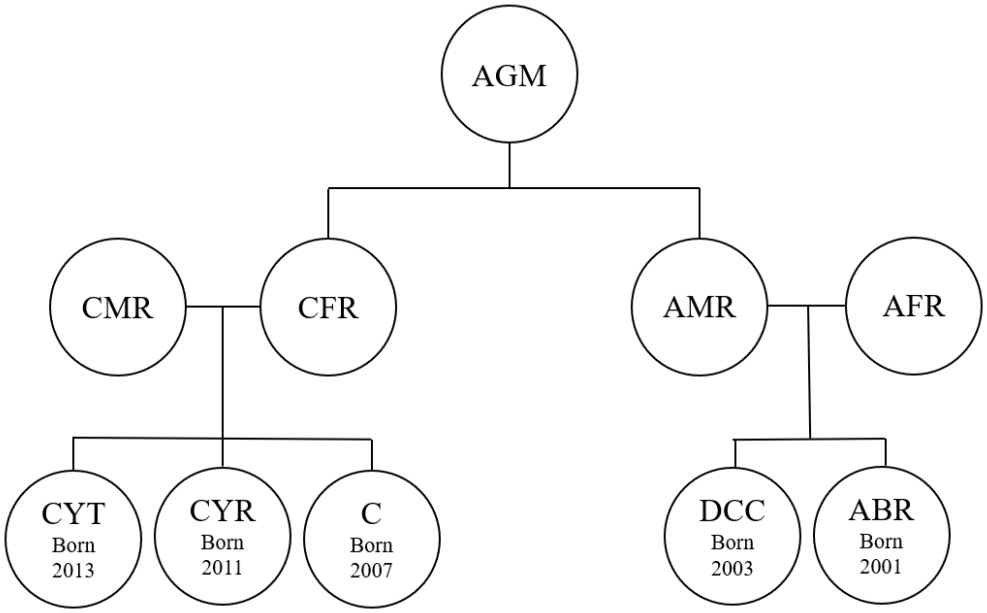
5 I explain the relevant relationships between C's and DCC's families[4] with the following family tree diagram:

---

3 ASOF at para 8.

4 ASOF at para 4.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)



6 CMR and CFR are C's mother and father. C is their eldest child. CYR and CYT are C's younger brothers. AMR and AFR are DCC's mother and father. AMR is CFR's elder sister, and AGM is their mother.[5] DCC and ABR, DCC's elder brother who is two years older than him, are a pair of brothers who were adopted at a young age by AMR and AFR.[6] Thus, though DCC and ABR are biologically related to each other,[7] they are not biologically related to the other persons mentioned above. At trial, CMR and CFR were called as Prosecution witnesses, while AGM, AMR and ABR were called as Defence witnesses.

---

5 ASOF at para 5.

6 Notes of Evidence ("NE") 21 October 2025 at p 31 lines 23−24.

7 NE 16 October 2025 at p 52 lines 22−24.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

7 Two of the domestic helpers employed by C's parents are relevant to this case. The first domestic helper referred to ("FDH") was employed from 28 December 2012 to 16 January 2017, while the second domestic helper ("SDH") was employed from 13 January 2017 to 17 May 2018.[8]

8 Around 2009, AGM's and AMR's family moved homes to a four-storey terrace house (the "Residence").[9] The first floor of the Residence comprises a living room and a dining area, while both the second and third floors of the Residence comprise two bedrooms each. In particular, one of the bedrooms on the third floor has an en suite toilet (the "master bedroom") and, outside of the master bedroom, there is an L-shaped table with two chairs (the "L-shaped table").[10] The fourth floor is an attic.

The Prosecution's version of events

The incidents

9 All the incidents are alleged to have taken place in the master bedroom. C testified that the first incident of rape and sexual assault happened sometime in 2013, when she was in pre-school and both her and DCC were about six and ten years old respectively.[11]

10 At trial, C narrated what would typically occur in an incident of sexual assault by DCC, which happened about once a week. These incidents would

---

8 ASOF at para 9.

9 NE 14 October 2025 at p 61 lines 6−12.

10 NE 21 October 2025 at p 32 line 8 to p 33 line 17.

11 NE 5 May 2025 at p 22 lines 8–20.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

occur in the master bedroom of the Residence.[12] This room was used by AMR and ABR, who slept on the same bed.[13] On the occasions where C was in the Residence, she would ordinarily be doing homework at a foldable table in the master bedroom below a cupboard.[14] DCC would come into the master bedroom, carry C (by wrapping his arms around C, from the front)[15] to the left side of the bed, which was ABR's side of the bed, and place her down on the bed such that her head was facing upwards.[16] DCC would then close and lock the door[17] and draw the curtains.[18]

11 Thereafter, DCC would situate himself between C's legs and over C, and then proceed to take off C's shirt and pants.[19] He would also take off his own shirt, pants and underwear.[20] DCC would then start to touch C's chest.[21] On some occasions, he would digitally penetrate C while, on other occasions, he would proceed straight to penile penetration.[22] Most of these acts of penetration were of C's vagina, though there were instances of C's anus being penetrated as well.[23] While DCC was performing the sexual acts, he would be covered by a

---

12 NE 5 May 2025 at p 22 lines 21–22.

13 NE 8 May 2025 at p 80 lines 2–13.

14 NE 5 May 2025 at p 22 line 23 to p 23 line 18.

15 NE 9 May 2025 at p 51 lines 1–7.

16 NE 5 May 2025 at p 23 lines 19–24.

17 NE 5 May 2025 at p 41 lines 4–6.

18 NE 9 May 2025 at p 80 lines 7–17.

19 NE 5 May 2025 at p 24 lines 3–7.

20 NE 5 May 2025 at p 25 lines 15–23.

21 NE 5 May 2025 at p 24 lines 8–15.

22 NE 5 May 2025 at p 24 lines 8–15.

23 NE 5 May 2025 at p 34 line 19 to p 35 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

blanket drawn up to C's neck as C had expressed discomfort with seeing the sexual acts.[24] This meant that C could not see what was happening,[25] though she would look under the blanket sometimes.[26] She thought the incidents lasted for about 30 minutes to one hour although, when they first started occurring while she was younger, she could not tell the time.[27] She subsequently clarified that she could not recall how long the sessions lasted when she was older.[28]

12 DCC told C that these acts were good for her.[29] C felt uncomfortable but assumed that, because the acts were good for her, she should not question them and thus did not do so.[30] DCC also told C not to tell anyone.[31]

13 An incident of sexual assault would typically come to an end in three ways: (i) when DCC finished on his own accord; (ii) when it was dinnertime and AMR called for dinner; or (iii) when a helper knocked on the door.[32] There was a monitor in the room which displayed the feed of a closed-circuit television camera ("CCTV") overlooking the staircase to the second floor and the aforementioned L-shaped table situated outside the master bedroom.[33] This allowed DCC and C to see whether someone was approaching the master

---

24 NE 5 May 2025 at p 34 lines 6–16.

25 NE 5 May 2025 at p 34 lines 6–12.

26 NE 5 May 2025 at p 25 line 1.

27 NE 5 May 2025 at p 26 lines 7–12.

28 NE 9 May 2025 at p 99 line 7 to line 19.

29 NE 5 May 2025 at p 25 line 22 to p 26 line 2.

30 NE 5 May 2025 at p 26 lines 3–6.

31 NE 5 May 2025 at p 26 lines 17–23.

32 NE 9 May 2025 at p 100 line 9 to p 101 line 13.

33 NE 5 May 2025 at p 41 line 17 to p 42 line 11.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

bedroom.[34] If someone knocked on the door, DCC would put on his clothes, ask C to put on her clothes or enter the toilet to put on her clothes, and thereafter unlock the door and allow the individual to enter the room.[35] At the end of these incidents, DCC would tell C to put her clothes back on.[36]

14 C also described an alternative scenario in which she would be doing homework in AFR's bedroom, which was located on the third floor opposite the master bedroom, as opposed to the master bedroom itself. On those occasions, DCC would drag C by the hand from AFR's bedroom to the master bedroom,[37] and pull C onto the bed.[38] The sequence of events in relation to the sexual penetration and touching as narrated at [11] would then continue.[39]

The First Family Meeting

15 Sometime between 2016 and 2017, C told FDH, prior to a shower, that DCC had touched her.[40] C did not specify whether DCC had used his penis or his hand to touch her, because she did not know the difference at the time.[41] In response, FDH told C to tell AMR and C did so. C could not remember specifying to AMR where DCC had touched her.[42] This complaint prompted

---

34 NE 5 May 2025 at p 42 lines 12–22.

35 NE 5 May 2025 at p 41 lines 9–16.

36 NE 5 May 2025 at p 26 lines 13–16.

37 NE 8 May 2025 at p 22 lines 9–18.

38 NE 14 May 2025 at p 45 line 21 to p 47 line 14.

39 NE 8 May 2025 at p 22 line 25.

40 NE 5 May 2025 at p 27 lines 5–10, NE 5 May 2025 at p 29 lines 2–9.

41 NE 5 May 2025 at p 28 line 25 to p 29 line 9.

42 NE 13 May 2025 at p 106 lines 8–12.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

what came to be referred to as the "First Family Meeting", which was attended by C, DCC, CMR, CFR, AMR and AGM in the kitchen of the Residence.[43]

16 C was unable to recall what transpired at this meeting or its exact date.[44] But it must have taken place before FDH left on 16 January 2017. CMR testified that this First Family Meeting took place sometime in late 2016.[45] None of the Defence's witnesses were able to recall when this meeting took place.[46]

17 CMR recounted as follows. According to her, she received a call from AMR requesting that she and CFR arrive at the Residence quickly. CMR and CFR went to the Residence and, upon arriving, saw FDH consoling C, who was crying.[47] This occurred on the first floor of the Residence, adjacent to the staircase.[48] CMR asked AMR what happened, to which AMR replied by stating "C said [DCC] touch [*sic*] her".[49] CMR then asked C what happened, and C responded by saying "here, here, here" while crying and gesticulating in an up and down motion from waist to mid-thigh.[50]

18 CFR recalled that two family meetings occurred as a result of C's complaints, though he could not recall which family meeting occurred first.[51]

---

43 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 lines 2–12.

44 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 lines 13–17.

45 CS of CMR at para 5, Agreed Bundle at p 1; NE 22 October 2025 at p 10 lines 3–8.

46 NE 15 October 2025 at p 85 lines 7–11; NE 21 October 2025 at p 83 lines 3–6.

47 CS of CMR at para 5, Agreed Bundle at p 1.

48 NE 10 September at p 57 lines 5−14.

49 NE 10 September 2025 at p 57 lines 10–12.

50 NE 10 September 2025 at p 57 line 5 to p 59 line 15.

51 CS of CFR at para 7, Agreed Bundle at p 5.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Nonetheless, CFR remembered that, during the family meeting on the first floor (which is where CMR placed the First Family Meeting, as stated above at [17]), C was crying and gestured at herself from her belly button downwards past the groin to her thigh.[52] According to CFR, AMR accused C of lying.[53] CFR had asked AMR to show him CCTV footage from the third floor, but AMR replied that the CCTV was not functional.[54]

After the First Family Meeting

19 It is not disputed that the outcome of the First Family Meeting was that C was told not to go to the third floor of the Residence (where the master bedroom was situated), and that C was to remain on the first floor of the Residence to study and play.[55] She also remembered that AGM had instructed her to tell everyone that she was lying, but she did not do so.[56]

20 Thereafter, C continued to go to the Residence after school. Initially, she did her homework in the dining area around the first floor of the Residence.[57] However, after some time, she became uncomfortable with the mosquito bites she was sustaining at the first floor and decided to return to work in the master bedroom on the third floor instead.[58] Thereafter, DCC continued with his sexual acts, telling C, in her words, that "I better not tell anyone this time".[59] The

52 NE 12 September 2025 at p 66 line 11 to p 68 line 22.

53 NE 12 September 2025 at p 45 lines 10–16.

54 NE 12 September 2025 at p 49 line 25 to p 50 line 17.

55 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 lines 13–24.

56 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 lines 25 to p 31 line 2.

57 NE 5 May 2025 at p 31 line 23 to p 32 line 12.

58 NE 5 May 2025 at p 32 line 13 to p 33 line 4.

59 NE 5 May 2025 at p 33 lines 6-7.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

frequency of the incidents increased to two or three times a week and were committed on the same side of the bed in the master bedroom.[60]

Charge A1

21 The Prosecution's Opening Statement situated the incident underlying charge A1 as occurring between the First Family Meeting and a subsequent family meeting (referred to as the "Second Family Meeting").[61] By then, C was slightly older and therefore, instead of carrying C, DCC would ask C to go onto the bed or drag C by her hand to the bed. The same sequence of events (as narrated above at [11]) would occur.[62]

22 C sited the incident in charge A3 as occurring before 9 November 2017, which was when she had her first period, with the incident in charge A2 taking place after her second period.[63] For ease of flow, I introduce the facts pertinent to the charges chronologically in this section.

Charge A3

23 Charge A3 concerns a distinct occasion in which DCC placed his hand in a zip-lock bag with a football design, and then used two of his fingers to penetrate C's vagina with his fingers wrapped in the zip-lock bag.[64] After penetrating her, DCC took his fingers out of C's vagina, brought the zip-lock bag with his hand in it up to C's face, and told her that was what she smelt like.

---

60 NE 5 May 2025 at p 33 lines 2–8.

61 POS at paras 9−11.

62 NE 5 May 2025 at p 33 lines 14–21.

63 NE 5 May 2025 at p 46 line 15 to p 47 line 15.

64 NE 5 May 2025 at p 37 lines 7–15.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

C recalled feeling confused, and did not know why she needed to know how she smelt.[65] Subsequently, he threw away the zip-lock bag and continued with the sexual assault in a similar manner as in the previous incidents, namely by touching her chest and then penetrating her vagina with his penis.[66] For ease of reference, this incident is referred to in this judgment as the "Zip-lock Bag Incident".

Charge A2

24 C testified that the incident which is the subject of charge A2 occurred on the day of the Second Family Meeting.[67] C recalled that, on this occasion, DCC had penetrated her with his penis and touched her breasts and that he only ceased committing these acts when he had to go for Chinese tuition.[68] After DCC left the room for Chinese tuition, C went to bathe and she decided to tell SDH. SDH was then accompanying C when she showered as C was afraid of ghosts at the time and did not want to be left alone.[69] C told SDH that DCC had touched her.[70] As with her first complaint to FDH, C did not specify to SDH how or where DCC had touched her.[71]

---

65 NE 5 May 2025 at p 37 lines 7–15; NE 15 May 2025 at p 135 lines 18–23.

66 NE 5 May 2025 at p 38 line 15 to p 39 line 5.

67 NE 8 May 2025 at p 2 line 21.

68 NE 8 May 2025 at p 3 lines 1–21.

69 NE 5 May 2025 at p 43 line 18 to p 44 line 7.

70 NE 5 May 2025 at p 43 line 1 to p 44 line 12.

71 NE 5 May 2025 at p 44 lines 8–12.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

The Second Family Meeting

25 SDH told C to tell AMR, and C proceeded to do so that evening. As with her previous complaint to AMR, C did not specify how or where DCC had touched her.[72] This then led to the Second Family Meeting. This was convened in AGM's room on the second floor, with C, CMR, CFR, DCC, AMR, AFR, and AGM in attendance.[73]

26 C could not remember what was said during the meeting or if she or DCC spoke at all.[74]

27 CMR placed this incident as occurring around January 2018,[75] and was able to recall this as it coincided with the Primary One registration exercise for schools and that bus transport arrangements had to be made for CYR.[76] C would have been 10 years' old in January 2018, only turning 11 later in October.

28 According to CMR, the Second Family Meeting occurred after she received a call from AMR.[77] CMR stated that C cried as she gesticulated and said "again mummy, again. He touched me, here, here".[78] C had gestured over her chest and her groin area.[79] CMR also stated that, during this family meeting

---

72 NE 5 May 2025 at p 44 lines 13–20.

73 NE 5 May 2025 at p 44 lines 21 to p 45 line 3.

74 NE 5 May 2025 at p 45 lines 1–7.

75 NE 10 September 2025 at p 17 line 24 to p 18 line 2.

76 NE 10 September 2025 at p 18 line 18 to p 20 line 14.

77 CS of CMR at para 7, Agreed Bundle at p 1.

78 NE 10 September 2025 at p 74 lines 16–19.

79 NE 10 September 2025 at p 74 line 24 to p 75 line 14.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

in AGM's room, CFR had confronted DCC and DCC responded with a denial and a statement that "he wanted to jump down a building".[80]

29 CFR recounted that the Second Family Meeting took place in AGM's bedroom.[81] At the Second Family Meeting, C gestured in an up and down motion from her belly-button to the middle of her thighs while crying and saying, "this way".[82] CFR cautioned that he was not sure because his attention was focused on questioning AMR and DCC.[83] Both AMR and AGM accused C of lying,[84] and CFR confronted DCC about what he did to C.[85] AMR then told CFR not to "stress [DCC] further".[86] CFR had also asked AMR for the CCTV footage and, again, AMR responded by stating that the CCTV was not functional.[87] Under cross-examination, when it was suggested to him that DCC had threatened to commit suicide, CFR stated that he could not remember this. Although he did remember that AMR was worried that DCC would end his own life, he could not remember what prompted AMR to say that.[88]

---

80 CS of CMR at para 8, Agreed Bundle at p 2.

81 NE 12 September 2025 at p 37 lines 18–20; CS of CFR at para 4, Agreed Bundle at p 4.

82 NE 12 September 2025 at p 37 line 20 to p 38 line 8.

83 NE 12 September 2025 at p 67 line 4 to p 68 line 22.

84 NE 12 September 2025 at p 38 lines 9–13; CS of CFR at para 4, Agreed Bundle at p 4.

85 CS of CFR at para 4, Agreed Bundle at p 4.

86 NE 12 September 2025 at p 38 lines 19–24.

87 NE 12 September 2025 at p 39 lines 1–12.

88 NE 12 September 2025 at p 36 lines 6–19.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

After the Second Family Meeting

30 It was not disputed that the outcome of the meeting was that C's parents agreed that she and her brothers would go home after school instead of going to the Residence. After the Second Family Meeting, C would still go to the Residence to meet another uncle and his family on weekends and, on some of those occasions, DCC would be there as well.[89] C would then pretend as though nothing had happened and tried to carry on normal conversations with DCC.[90]

C's 12th Birthday

31 For her 12th birthday in October 2019, CMR and CFR had invited AMR, AFR, ABR and DCC over without informing C.[91] This was upsetting to C, who described her emotions as such:[92]

> A: […] I really didn't want to see them on my birthday itself because, you know, a birthday is a very significant date. Then just seeing [DCC], who did such things to me, on such a significant -- sorry, on my birthday, which is such a significant day to me, was just a bit upsetting to me, including the fact that my parents didn't even ask me whether they should invite Aunt [AMR] or not. They just told me that, "Oh, they are coming." So I was a bit stunned.

32 According to C, she wanted to avoid AMR's family and spend as little time as possible with them. Consequently, C hid in her room and cried.[93] After

---

89 NE 5 May 2025 at p 47 lines 18–24.

90 NE 5 May 2025 at p 47 line 25 to p 48 line 4.

91 NE 8 May 2025 at p 19 lines 6–12.

92 NE 8 May 2025 at p 19 lines 9–18.

93 NE 8 May 2025 at p 20 lines 5–24.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

some time, CMR was able to coax C out of her room to cut her birthday cake though she went back to her room thereafter.[94]

33 CMR testified that, on C's 12th birthday, C had "acted very, very, very strongly".[95] According to CMR, C hid in her room and only came out to cut her cake after CMR had told her to "come out for mama, just celebrate your birthday".[96] C then returned to her room and, after AMR's family left, C "was crying badly".[97] CMR also stated that C had ignored all of the birthday presents given to her to such an extent that, till this day, CMR still does not know what became of the presents.[98] However, despite recognising that C's behaviour was abnormal, CMR did not ask C about what had upset her and did not know what led to C being upset at the time.[99]

C's realisation that she had been raped by DCC

34 C said she initially did not know that what DCC did to her was wrong.[100] She only came to a realisation sometime between Primary Six and Secondary One, when she read a news article about a lady being raped.[101] As the events detailed in the news article were similar to what she had experienced in her childhood, C conducted a Google search on what "rape" was. This realisation

---

94 NE 8 May 2025 at p 20 lines 19–24.

95 NE 10 September 2025 at p 118 line 11.

96 NE 10 September 2025 at p 118 lines 1–16.

97 NE 10 September 2025 at p 118 lines 21–22.

98 NE 10 September 2025 at p 118 lines 18–21.

99 NE 10 September 2025 at p 131 lines 3–24.

100 NE 5 May 2025 at p 31 lines 3–12.

101 NE 8 May 2025 at p 5 lines 12–23.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

led to subsequent events that are referred to in this judgment as the "Laptop Incident".

The Laptop Incident

35 C recalled that she first told her mother, CMR, that she was raped sometime before 29 September 2020 when CMR had incidentally come across C's searches on rape arising from the above.[102] While watching a video arising out of the search, the battery of the laptop ran out. Subsequently, when CMR charged and rebooted the laptop, she came across the open tab which displayed a search for the term "rape". CMR asked C if she was the one who searched it and C confirmed that this was so. CMR followed up to ask if the search was related to C's experiences with DCC. C then replied that it was. After the conversation, C was under the impression that CMR knew she had been raped but was not aware of how long the incidents lasted.[103] That was, by C's account, the extent of the conversation between her and CMR pursuant to the Laptop Incident, and she could not remember if CMR and CFR had taken any follow-up action.[104] C was also unsure as to whether CFR was aware that she had told CMR she was raped.[105]

Informing CGF about the incidents of rape/sexual assault

36 The first time C went into detail about the sexual incidents was in a conversation with her friend ("CGF"), on the night of 28 September 2020. CGF

---

102 NE 8 May 2025 at p 6 line 21 to p 7 line 17.

103 NE 15 May 2025 at p 151 lines 8–12.

104 NE 15 May 2025 at p 2 line 11 to p 3 line 16.

105 NE 15 May 2025 at p 18 lines 7–24.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

was C's Secondary One and Secondary Two friend in their secondary school.[106] They shared a close relationship and would tell each other about their personal problems.[107]

37 Around the time of the disclosure, C no longer shared a room with her brothers. She found that, "left alone with [her] own thoughts", she had flashbacks and nightmares and would either cry before sleeping or wake up crying.[108] After hearing a comment made by a student in school that all smart people apparently have sex with their cousins,[109] C told CGF about the statement, and CGF casually responded by asking C, "do you have sex with your cousin?".[110] This upset C, and she spent the day thinking about it. That night, C texted CGF *via* WhatsApp to inform her about the sexual incidents with DCC. In the course of these messages, C also informed CGF about her "horrific" 12th birthday where she hid in her room for an hour after DCC and his family visited.[111]

Informing CMR and CFR

38 While C was confiding in CGF on WhatsApp, she was physically positioned next to CMR in CMR's bedroom.[112] In that context, C testified that she felt like she should have told CMR about what had occurred to her in greater

---

106 NE 8 May 2025 at p 8 lines 1–4.

107 NE 8 May 2025 at p 8 lines 10–15.

108 NE 8 May 2025 at p 12 lines 1–10.

109 NE 8 May 2025 at p 9 lines 2–20.

110 NE 8 May 2025 at p 10 lines 1–11.

111 NE 8 May 2025 at p 18 lines 13–23.

112 NE 8 May 2025 at p 27 line 4 to p 28 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

detail, as she was under the impression that CMR did not comprehend the full extent of the incidents.

39 Sometime between 29 and 30 September 2020, C told CMR about what happened and the extent to which they occurred, namely that they involved rape and that they happened frequently during the period of 2013 to late 2017 or early 2018. When C told CMR, C testified that CMR was very shocked and was crying on her bed.[113]

40 CMR and CFR testified that their first realisation of the true extent and nature of the sexual acts committed by DCC on C was on the night of 29 September. C came crying into the room where they were. CFR left the room, and C told CMR about the history of rape. CMR later informed CFR in a WhatsApp message as follows:[114]

CFR (10.32pm):	What has happened?
CFR (10.32pm):	Don't make her emotional….That will affect her exam tmr
CFR (10.46pm):	??
CFR (10.50pm):	What happened?
CMR (10.55pm):	Our child hood care for her failed badly
CMR (10.55pm):	She is trying to sleep
CFR (10.55pm):	???
CMR (10.56pm):	She says [DCC] ra[p]ed her since she was v young
CMR (10.56pm):	6 yrs old onwards
CMR (10.56pm):	And she did not know about it as rape till Dec education in p5
CMR (10.56pm):	Sex
CFR (10.57pm):	Why not we just cut tie with [DCC]? He is so bad
CFR (10.58pm):	Why is she still so friendly to [DCC] whenever she see him?

113 NE 8 May 2025, at p 28 lines 6-9.

114 Section 231 Notice dated 5 September 2025 at pp 11−15.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

CFR (10.59pm):	Just tell [AMR] that we don't want [DCC] to come to out house!!!!
CMR (10.59pm):	I dunno
CMR (10.59pm):	Haiz
CMR (10.59pm):	So heart pain
CMR (10.59pm):	I really dunno how to react now
CFR (10.59pm):	Rape her?
CMR (10.59pm):	Yes
CMR (11.00pm):	She says put his penis in her
CFR (11.00pm):	But he was just p3 then
CMR (11.00pm):	Ya…That's why she say dunno how could someone so young
CMR (11.00pm):	Till she was in p5
CMR (11.01pm):	6 yrs old to 11
CMR (11.01pm):	Somemoee she says that time confront [DCC] 1st time
CMR (11.01pm):	[AGM] pulled her in her room n insisted she tell [AMR] that she is lying n insisted that [C] is lying
CFR (11.02pm):	Just tell [AMR] that we don't want [DCC] to come to our house anymore!
CMR (11.02pm):	He don't come over so often already
CMR (11.02pm):	I m more focused on [C] mentsk
CMR (11.03pm):	She says she keeps thinking about it
CFR (11.03pm):	Must counsel [C] to move on! She has a life forward
CMR (11.03pm):	N affecting her studies
CMR (11.03pm):	Yes! I told her that
CMR (11.03pm):	Collect herself n move on
CFR (11.03pm):	Can u take more leaves and stay with her during this period of time…
CFR (11.04pm):	U r very important to hee
CFR (11.04pm):	Her
CMR (11.04pm):	I am on leave this Thurs
CMR (11.04pm):	Friday n 7th Oct
CFR (11.04pm):	Next week?
CFR (11.04pm):	No point keeping so many leaves
CFR (11.04pm):	We are not going anywhere.
CFR (11.04pm):	She needs us
CFR (11.05pm):	Or tell [redacted] that u need to be at home for family reasons during this period of time

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

The police report

41 Sometime after C informed CMR as to the full extent of the incidents, CMR read the WhatsApp messages exchanged between C and CGF, as C would leave her phone at night in CMR's bedroom.[115] According to C, CMR was upset by the severity of the incidents as disclosed by C in the text messages. CMR informed CFR about the messages, and both of them encouraged C to lodge a police report when she was ready to do so.[116]

42 Around the same time, CFR informed AMR about the incidents.

43 C was initially reluctant to report these incidents to the police, as she was worried this would ruin the relationship between her family and DCC's family.[117] She explained that AGM had, in the meantime, been upset with her.[118] On 3 January 2021, CFR reassured C in a conversation that he was fine with C lodging the police report, and that she should stop worrying about his familial relations with AMR.[119] Later that day, C went with CMR and CFR to lodge a police report.[120]

The medical evidence

44 Subsequently, on 3 February 2021, C was examined at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital ("KKH") by one Dr Li Xinyi ("Dr Li"), who was an

---

115 NE 8 May 2025 at p 28 lines 10–18.

116 NE 8 May 2025 at p 29 lines 1–2.

117 NE 8 May 2025 at p 29 line 3 to p 30 line 3.

118 NE 8 May 2025 at p 29 lines 10–15.

119 NE 8 May 2025 at p 30 lines 6–15.

120 CS of CFR at para 10, Agreed Bundle at p 5.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Associate Consultant at the Department of Urogynaecology at KKH at the time.[121] Dr Li's medical report dated 3 March 2021 (the "KKH Report") concluded that C had no observable injuries and normal pelvic development, though there were old tears at the three and eight o'clock position on her hymen.[122]

45 On 30 March 2021, C was interviewed at the Child Guidance Clinic at the Institute of Mental Health ("IMH") by Dr Parvathy Pathy ("Dr Parvathy"), a Psychiatrist (Senior Consultant) at the time.[123] Consequent to this examination, Dr Parvathy produced a medical report dated 1 April 2021 (the "IMH Report").

46 C was referred thereafter to Pink Elephant Psychology Services ("Pink Elephant") for counselling and psychological treatment.[124] Between 25 June 2021 and 25 February 2022, C attended ten 90-minute sessions conducted by Ms Lau Wan Xin ("Ms Lau"), who was the Principal Psychologist and sole proprietor of Pink Elephant.[125] Ms Lau's Counselling Therapy Report (the "Pink Elephant Report") dated 29 January 2024 explained that, because C presented with nightmares, difficulties with sleep, negative emotions, loss of interest, excessive nail scratching, and self-blame,[126] C was referred to undergo Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. This sought to give careful and gradual exposure of a victim to their own memories of their trauma in a controlled

---

121 CS of Dr Li Xinyi at paras 1−2, Agreed Bundle at p 10.

122 KKH Report at p 3, Agreed Bundle at p 13.

123 CS of Dr Parvathy Pathy at paras 1−2, Agreed Bundle at p 31.

124 CS of Ms Lau Wan Xin at paras 1−2, Agreed Bundle at p 190.

125 CS of Ms Lau Wan Xin at para 1, Agreed Bundle at p 190.

126 Pink Elephant Report at p 1, Agreed Bundle at p 191.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

manner through writing a "trauma narrative".[127] C narrated such a trauma narrative to Ms Lau over the course of four sessions between 21 December 2021 and 28 January 2022, and this was adduced into evidence and is referred to in this judgment as the "Trauma Narrative".[128]

The Defence's version of events

47 DCC denied that any sexual acts between him and C had taken place.

48 At trial, DCC contended that there was no opportunity for him to have committed any such sexual acts for various reasons: First, this was so on account of his busy schedule. When he was in Primary School (from 2013 to 2015), he had tuition at the Residence every day which would last up till dinnertime.[129] When he was in Secondary School (from 2016 to 2018), he had afterschool Co-Curricular Activities ("CCA") twice every week,[130] and tuition at the Residence on days when he did not have CCA.[131] Second, the children were not allowed to lock the bedroom doors in the Residence.[132] Furthermore, the door of the master bedroom in which the sexual acts allegedly took place had alignment issues with its doorframe which made it difficult to close, and that force would have to be used to do so such that any attempt to close it completely would result in a loud bang.[133] Third, the adults, the helpers and the children in the home were

127 Pink Elephant Report at p 1, Agreed Bundle at p 191.

128 Trauma Narrative, Agreed Bundle at pp 193−206.

129 DCS at para 226(b); NE 14 October 2025 at p 21 lines 2−25.

130 NE 14 October 2025 at p 23 lines 6−18.

131 NE 14 October 2025 at p 24 lines 16−25.

132 DCS at para 241; NE 14 October 2025 at p 15 line 15 to p 16 line 19.

133 DCS at para 242; NE 14 October 2025 at p 13 lines 2−20.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

constantly moving around the home and, thus, it would be highly improbable for the alleged sexual acts to have gone unnoticed.[134]

Structure of analysis

49 In the present case, the first issue is to ascertain whether there is any corroboration between C's testimony and other pieces of evidence before the court. If there is none, C's evidence must be unusually convincing in order to sustain a conviction: see *Public Prosecutor v GCK and another matter* [2020] 1 SLR 486 ("*GCK*") at [88]–[89].

Is there corroboration in the present case?

50 I start then with the issue of whether there is corroboration. Our courts adopt a liberal approach to corroboration, focusing on the substance, relevance and confirmatory value of the evidence in question: see *AOF v Public Prosecutor* [2012] 3 SLR 34 ("*AOF*") at [173], citing *Public Prosecutor v Mohammed Liton Mohammed Syeed Mallik* [2008] 1 SLR(R) 601 ("*Mohammed Liton*") at [43].

51 During oral closing submissions, the Prosecution was asked to clarify its case on whether any evidence amounted to corroboration. The Prosecution clarified that its case on corroboration was limited to C's symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD"), arising from the evidence of Dr Parvathy and Ms Lau.[135]

---

134 DCS at paras 228–239.

135 NE 4 December 2025 at p 3 line 20 to p 4 line 12.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

52 The purpose of the IMH Report was to confirm if C was fit to testify in court.[136] The IMH Report also contained C's self-reported mental ailments, namely, that she had unpleasant and intrusive thoughts of DCC's acts, flashbacks, and difficulty falling asleep.[137] Dr Parvathy testified at trial that, as a psychiatrist, she also assessed whether C had any psychological issues which necessitated further assessment and management.[138] In this regard, Dr Parvathy noted that C had presented with PTSD symptoms,[139] including insomnia, flashbacks, and intrusive and unpleasant memories of what DCC did to her.[140] Nonetheless, Dr Parvathy accepted that there was no finding of mental disorder under the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition ("DSM-5") in the IMH Report,[141] and confirmed that she "did not make a diagnosis of the full [PTSD]" in relation to C.[142]

53 Ms Lau, on her part, testified that, at C's first session with her, C presented with traumatic stress symptoms.[143] The observation of the symptoms was based on the DSM-5 PTSD diagnosis criteria.[144] However, as Ms Lau observed that C was still able to function normally, she did not make a diagnosis

---

136 Written Questions Posed by Defence and Responses of Dr Parvathy at S/N 1, Agreed Bundle at p 37.

137 IMH Report at p 4, Agreed Bundle at p 35.

138 NE 20 August 2025 at p 6 lines 10−13 and p 32 lines 1−7.

139 NE 20 August 2025 at p 19 lines 4−11 and p 36 lines 1−23.

140 NE 20 August 2025 at p 18 line 20 to p 21 line 12.

141 NE 20 August 2025 at p 46 line 20 to p 48 line 9.

142 NE 20 August 2025 at p 25 lines 13−17 and p 36 lines 4−6.

143 NE 21 August 2025 at p 8 lines 12−22.

144 NE 21 August 2025 at p 9 line 1 to p 10 line 5.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

of PTSD. Instead, she diagnosed that C had traumatic stress symptoms not amounting to PTSD.[145]

54 In my view, the medical evidence adduced does not amount to corroboration of the charges in this case. Dr Parvathy's and Ms Lau's assessments, made some two years after the last incident, were centred on how C could be treated for various symptoms she presented at the time they saw her. They relied on C's self-reports made between 30 March 2021 to 28 January 2022. Neither verified any causal link between the alleged sexual assaults and C's symptoms.[146] In context, the reports did not show that C's symptoms were caused by prior sexual assault or that the alleged assaults took place. Rather, on the assumption that such sexual assault took place, the observed symptoms were consistent with the assault having taken place. This is insufficient to found corroboration.

The applicable standard

55 Where the uncorroborated evidence of a single eye-witness forms the sole basis for conviction, this evidence must be so "unusually convincing" as to overcome any doubts that might arise from a lack of corroboration (see *GCK* at [88]).

56 As held by Sundaresh Menon CJ in *GII v Public Prosecutor* [2025] 3 SLR 578 ("*GII*") at [26]–[28], the issue of whether one's evidence is unusually convincing is typically approached from two angles. First, there must be proof

---

145 NE 21 August 2025 at p 10 lines 6−15.

146 NE 20 August 2025 at p 32 lines 10−20; NE 21 August 2025 at p 92 line 20 to p 93 line 1.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

beyond a reasonable doubt *within* the Prosecution's case, which means that the Prosecution's case must itself be internally and externally consistent such that there is sufficient evidence to establish the accused person's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at least on a *prima facie* basis. Pertinently, weaknesses in the case for the Defence cannot ordinarily be called in aid to shore up what is lacking in the Prosecution's case. Second, there must be proof beyond a reasonable doubt on the totality of the evidence, which includes a consideration of the case mounted by the Defence comprising both the assertions put forth by the accused person as well as the evidence he has adduced.

The Defence's contentions on C's evidence

57 I therefore turn to analyse the Prosecution's case first, consonant with the approach in *GII*. In this context, I scrutinise the internal and external consistency of C's evidence. The Defence raised "11 key reasons why [C]'s evidence does not rise to the level of being unusually convincing".[147] Three of these reasons relate to matters raised in DCC's defence. I deal in this section with the eight that impinge directly on the consistency of C's evidence and the first angle mentioned in *GII*. In this context, the Defence's suggestions on the reliability of a complainant must be founded on an evidential basis; mere suggestion by counsel would not be sufficient: *Kwan Peng Hong v Public Prosecutor* [2000] 2 SLR(R) 824 at [27].

147 DCS at para 154.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

C's "first reveal"

58 The Defence submits that C was inconsistent in her evidence on when she first revealed that she was being subjected to sexual assault.[148] In her Trauma Narrative, C states that CGF was the first person she had talked to about the alleged rapes. Similarly, in a police statement recorded on 10 January 2024, C stated that she had "told [CGF] first […] before telling my mother about it".[149] However, in her testimony in court, C had stated that her mother, CMR, was the first person who she had informed.

59 C explained why she had omitted mention of her initial complaint to her mother as such:[150]

> A: Because the incident with my mother -- the laptop incident was actually -- because as I say it was not very significant to me because nothing was done after that. So I don't really treat it as a significant incident to me.

60 This was consonant with C's evidence on how the Laptop Incident transpired (as set out above at [35]) and how her mother had essentially disregarded her initial complaint:[151]

> Q: You have mentioned your mother. Is your mother the first person that you spoke to about the acts which [DCC] did to you?
>
> A: I spoke about it very briefly, yeah, but later on – sorry, I didn't talk to my mum much about it, and then later on I told my mum, so I told my friend [CGF] about it in more detail through the chats. I believe it is somewhere between 28 or 29 September 2021 or 2020.

---

148 DCS at paras 155–161.

149 Section 22 Statement recorded on 10 January 2024 at A7.

150 NE 19 August 2025 at p 37 lines 2–6.

151 NE 8 May 2025 at p 7 lines 18–25.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

61 This is also consistent with C's testimony on her mother's reaction when told about the incidents of rape on 29 September. CMR was:[152]

> very shocked. She was on her bed again and she was crying this time. … And she just told me that she is so sorry she misunderstood me and she didn't know that it happened to such an extent.

62 That CMR did not understand C's revelation as one of rape is supported by CMR's text of 29 September to CFR. On the stand, CMR remembered the Laptop Incident but said she had not registered that C was telling her she had been raped.[153]

63 Thus, while the Laptop Incident may have been C's first report from C's point of view, this was not a clear and direct report of rape, in contrast to her WhatsApps with CGF. CGF was the first person with whom she discussed the first incidents of rape. C's first clear report to CMR was made after her WhatsApps to CGF. This explains the difference between the position taken in the police report and Trauma Narrative, and her evidence in court.

Evidence involving revelations to CGF

64 Three of the Defence's "11 key reasons" deal with information given to CGF regarding the incidents in a series of WhatsApp messages. Before I turn to the Defence's contentions, I make a preliminary point that is pertinent to the analysis of the WhatsApp messages as a whole. Reading the entirety of the WhatsApp messages, the girls' exchange was informal and casual. They were

---

152 NE 8 May 2025 at p 28 lines 8-9.

153 NE 10 September 2025 at p 36 line 18 to p 40 line 23.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

also around 13 years old at the time. It would be inappropriate to put a literal interpretation on each word in the manner that the Defence's submissions do.

The CCTV feed

65 It is asserted that C stated in her WhatsApp messages to CGF that the CCTV was the sole reason that DCC could carry on without suspicion, premised on this extract of C's WhatsApp conversation with CGF:[154]

> CGF: HOw TF did he get away with it
>
> CGF: It doesn't make sensee
>
> C: I TELL U
>
> C: HE WLD DRAG ME TO HIS MOTHER'S ROOM WHEN I WAS YOUNGEE
>
> C: * YOUNGER
>
> C: AND THEN DO IT
>
> CGF: BUT HIS MOTHER DIDNT SUSPECT ANYTHING?!
>
> C: CUS THERE IS A CCTV CAMERA IN THE ROOM TO SEE IF ANYONE WAS COMING

66 I reiterate my opinion that this WhatsApp exchange must be viewed in its context. Fundamentally, C *did not state* that the CCTV was the sole reason that DCC avoided detection. I disagree with the Defence assertion that the exchange should be read in this manner. Further, C's reference to the CCTV in that WhatsApp conversation was consistent with her evidence in court, that *one* of the reasons for the lack of detection was the use of the CCTV outside the master bedroom and the display of the CCTV feed overlooking the room's exterior in the master bedroom itself, and that DCC would use this to see whether someone was approaching the master bedroom. C's evidence on the

---

154 Agreed Bundle at p 101, S/N 282−289 of Annex A.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

CCTV feed formed part of her narrative as to how a typical incident of sexual assault would transpire. For example, in C's examination-in-chief, she stated as follows:[155]

> Q: So you told us that the door would be locked when these incidents were happening. How would you or [DCC] know whether someone was coming?
>
> A: There is a monitor on P59 -- P59 and P60 on the cupboard, on the white cupboard. This monitor was overlooking the staircase, and I believe the L-shaped table as well. So, we could see -- sorry, there were CCTV cameras there, so we could see when someone was coming up the staircase and going to the room.

Similarly, in a statement recorded by the police on 4 January 2021, C stated the following:[156]

> … There used to be a CCTV camera pointing at the corridor leading to the bedroom. The computer in the room was always on and it would show the live screening of the CCTV. So whenever [DCC] heard noise whenever someone was walking up the staircase, he would pause and take a look at the monitor. There would also be times that he asked me to check out the CCTV and I would do so…

67 Therefore, the WhatsApp exchange was consistent with her evidence. While in the exchange C had not alluded to other scenarios not involving the use of the CCTV, to expect her to exhaustively list all the methods DCC used in such a casual WhatsApp conversation would be unrealistic.

68 Relatedly, the Defence submits that there is an "illogic" in this facet of C's evidence,[157] on the basis that it cannot be reconciled with C's description of

---

155 NE 5 May 2025 at p 41 lines 17–25.

156 Section 22 Statement recorded on 4 January 2021 at p 2.

157 DCS at para 175.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

how DCC would be positioned while sexually assaulting her. As recounted above at [11], while DCC was performing the sexual acts, DCC would be covered by a blanket drawn up to C's neck:[158]

> Q: So what did you feel physically when these incidents would occur?
>
> A: I felt quite uncomfortable. Actually, I believe around the start of the incidents, like even before the first family meeting, I was uncomfortable with seeing such acts, so I asked [DCC] to, like, put a blanket to the point of my neck so I couldn't see what was happening.
>
> Q: So you have described a blanket. (Inaudible). You described a blanket up to your neck. So where would [DCC] be in relation to that blanket?
>
> A: [DCC] would be under the blanket.

69 The Defence also drew attention to this portion of the Notes of Evidence,[159] where C agreed that DCC would not have been able to refer to the CCTV feed while sexually assaulting her:[160]

> Q: If indeed [DCC's] blanket or the blanket was covered all the way to your neck, and you had testified that [DCC] is always under the blanket, [C], there is no way that [DCC] can see the screen, because the screen would be behind him in this cupboard, whereas you are at -- he is facing the bed, the pillow board. Do you agree, disagree or have something else to -- you wish to explain?
>
> A: I agree, but we could hear footsteps.

70 In my view, C's explanation for her answer above during re-examination is acceptable:[161]

---

158 NE 5 May 2025 at p 34 line 6–16.

159 DCS at para 175.

160 NE 14 May 2025 at p 30 lines 2–11.

161 NE 15 May 2025 at p 132 lines 11–21.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> A: I meant that [DCC] and I could see the monitor -- there was -- someone was coming up the staircase. If we heard footsteps, then we would look at the monitor and see.
>
> Q: So when you say, "we", you meant both [DCC] and yourself; correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: So how would [DCC] look at the monitor screen that you described?
>
> A: He would remove the blanket and then he would turn his body to look.

71 A final point on the CCTV assertions is that, after the Defence's witnesses came on the stand, a new contention was made that the CCTV system became defective shortly after the family moved into the home. Up to that point, it was not a part of the Defence case. This assertion was not put to C in cross-examination, nor was any independent evidence adduced as to the CCTV becoming defective. CFR mentioned in passing while recounting the family meetings that the light on the CCTV camera was on despite AMR contending that the CCTV was defective.[162] Defence counsel did not cross-examine him on the light being on or put any alternative suggestion to him. In the circumstances, the written submission that C's assertions are "plainly false because the CCTV system spoiled shortly after [DCC] and his family moved into [the Residence]"[163] is bereft of evidential basis.

C's message that her brother "saw [DCC] doing it"

72 The Defence took issue with the following set of WhatsApp messages between C and CGF:[164]

---

162 NE 12 September 2025 at p 38 line 25 to p 39 line 12.

163 DCS para 171.

164 Agreed Bundle at p 136, S/N 572−576 of Annex A.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

C: btw there was only one where my brother saw him doing it while we were watching smth I think it was a cartoon.

C: So I always keep my bro beside me whenever that cousin comes lol so I have proof.

CGF: OHHh wow

CGF: Ur bro IssA legend

C: yas

73 Specifically, the Defence submits that, in these WhatsApp messages, C was alluding to CYR witnessing an instance of her being raped.[165] In support of this specific interpretation of these messages, the Defence draws attention to the fact that, in C's WhatsApp chat with CGF up till the point these messages were sent, C had not mentioned any other type of sexual contact with DCC other than rape. The Defence then seeks to crystalise a purported inconsistency by pointing to C's evidence (both in court and in her Trauma Narrative) that CYR had witnessed DCC touching C's thighs, but not raping C.[166]

74 In my view, the Defence's submissions on this point are contrived and put an excessively literal interpretation on the casual WhatsApp messages exchanged between C and CGF. C was talking in the present tense. Plainly, "him doing it" is an inherently vague phrase and, when read in the context of the entire message (that all three persons were watching a cartoon), it could not have meant that C's brother had witnessed a rape. CGF's omission to follow on with any query indicated CGF understood it was not that a rape was seen. C clarified in re-examination that, while there was no mention of the word "molest" in the messages, she mentally grouped molest and rape together as she

165 DCS at para 176.

166 NE 14 May 2025 at p 55 line 21 to p 56 line 5; Agreed Bundle at p 201.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

had been talking about the sexual incidents in general and the rape and molest occurred together.[167] I accept this clarification.

C saying that she was "still pure" and a "virgin"

75 C had said in WhatsApp messages to CGF that she was "still pure" and that she would "stay single 4 ever … [a]nd a virgin".[168]

76 Under cross-examination, C provided the following explanation for these WhatsApp messages:[169]

> A: Basically I would not like to have sexual intercourse with anyone. Ignoring the previous incidents with [DCC], I would not like to have sexual intercourse with anyone at all. It's a more looking forward statement.

77 Pertinently, C had sent these WhatsApp messages to CGF *after* she had told CGF about the sexual assaults DCC had allegedly visited upon her. CGF herself did not interpret the messages in the manner that defence counsel suggested. CGF explained under cross-examination how she interpreted "still pure":[170]

> Q: And so what was your understanding of her message when she said, "I am still pure, I swear"?
>
> A. That she doesn't actively consume sexual content on social media or on the internet. That's my understanding.

---

167 NE 15 May 2025 at p 151 lines 23 to p 152 line 10.

168 DCS at para 183.

169 NE 15 May 2025 at p 88 lines 15–19.

170 NE 11 September 2025 at p 12 lines 7–11.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

78 C's evidence that these messages were "forward looking" was also consistent with CGF's evidence:[171]

> Q: Again, with reference to the messages surrounding 2 serial numbers 4517 and 4518, can you tell us what the context of these messages were?
>
> A: From what I understand, [C] wasn't interested in getting into relationships or getting married and, yeah, she just wasn't interested.
>
> Q: I refer specifically to serial number 4518, where [C] said to you that she's going to stay a virgin. What do you understand [C] to mean by this statement?
>
> A: Okay. From what I understand is that [C] didn't call her getting raped by her cousin as sexual intercourse, so -- but she counted, she thought of herself as a virgin.

Other inconsistencies raised

79 Finally, various alleged inconsistencies raised were not inconsistencies at all when seen in context that they pertained to statements made in a casual WhatsApp chat:

(a) C stated on WhatsApp that she was "5 or 6" years of age when the very first act of rape took place,[172] whereas in evidence she stated that she was "about 6". There is no inconsistency however because, in both cases, her reference was that it was before Primary School and her birthday is in October.

(b) C had only mentioned to CGF she had been "raped when younger" without raising charge A3. This is consistent with C's evidence that she felt the Zip-lock Bag Incident was "extremely

---

171 NE 11 September 2025 at p 13 lines 3–14.

172 DCS at para 163(a).

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

embarrassing",[173] and first disclosed the Zip-lock Bag Incident to Ms Lau while creating her Trauma Narrative between 2021 and 2022 because she trusted her and "felt personally closer to her".[174]

(c) C referred to "my maid" alluding to one helper whereas, in court, it became clear that two helpers were involved.[175] In context, a simple explanation would be that C was referring to the domestic helper employed by her parents at the material time.

(d) C stated that the caretaking arrangement came to an end because she told her maid.[176] This was correct as the second complaint led to the Second Family Meeting, which did result in the caretaking arrangement coming to an end.

(e) C said DCC would "drag me to his mother's room…and then do it". The Defence submits that this is inconsistent with C's evidence that she would already be in the master bedroom when DCC would enter and commence his assault.[177] This completely ignores C's evidence in her examination-in-chief (recounted above at [14]), that there was an alternative scenario for how these assaults would commence, where she would be doing homework in AFR's bedroom when DCC would drag her to the master bedroom.[178]

---

173 NE 19 August 2025 at p 14 line 18 to p 15 line 4.

174 NE 19 August 2025 at p 20 lines 14–23.

175 DCS at paras 163(d), 167, 168.

176 DCS at para 163(e).

177 DCS at para 163(c).

178 NE 14 May 2025 at p 45 line 21 to p 47 line 14.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

80 I therefore reject the Defence's submissions on the WhatsApp messages.

The Zip-lock Bag Incident

81 The Zip-lock Bag Incident is the focus of charge A3. The Defence submits that C's evidence on the Zip-lock Bag Incident "appears to be an afterthought that was subsequently conjured".[179]

82 The Defence points to the fact that the first time C mentioned the Zip-lock Bag Incident was in her Trauma Narrative, which was prepared after she had reported her alleged sexual assault to her parents and to the police.[180] It is not disputed that the first report of the Ziplock Bag Incident was during her Trauma Narrative. In this regard, C's delay in reporting the Zip-lock Bag Incident is not, on its own, reason to disbelieve C's evidence on this specific incident. As explained in *Public Prosecutor v Yue Roger Jr* [2019] 3 SLR 749 ("*Yue Roger Jr*") at [30], there is no general rule requiring victims of sexual offences to report the offences immediately or in a timely fashion. Instead, the explanation for any such delay in reporting is to be considered and assessed by the court on a case-by-case basis.

83 In this case, C's evidence-in-chief was that she had no idea of its significance and was confused by the incident. When cross-examined as to why she had not revealed the incident to the police earlier, she said: "I personally felt that the Ziplock bag incident was extremely embarrassing and I could not make sense of why it was happening to begin with." Cross-examined at length about

---

179 DCS at para 190.

180 DCS at para 191.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

whether the other sexual acts embarrassed her, she explained the delineation in her mind in this way:[181]

> Because the other incidents happened many times repeatedly over many years, but the Ziplock bag incident only happened once and I never understood why he did that as well.

84 She explained she revealed the incident to Ms Lau because she trusted her.[182] These two responses of embarrassment and confusion are consistent because it would have been the first time that C was confronted with the smell of her vagina and, at the age of nine or ten, would not have the maturity to make sense of it. I accept that C's focus after her report to her mother on 29 September had been on rape, not digital penetration, and CMR's WhatsApp text of 29 September also reflected that penile-vaginal penetration was the focus of her enquiry. This is consistent too with the focus of her realisation at the time of her report to her mother, that the acts of sexual assault committed by DCC were rape,[183] and her flashbacks, which focused on vaginal penetration.[184] I am satisfied that C has adequately accounted for her delay in reporting the Zip-lock Bag Incident.

85 Second, the Defence asserts[185] two inconsistencies in C's evidence in court on how the Zip-lock Bag Incident occurred and C's account of it in her Trauma Narrative. I reproduce the relevant portion of the Trauma Narrative below:[186]

---

181 NE 19 August 2025 at p 15 lines 2−4; p 18 line 20.

182 NE 19 August 2025 at p 20 line 21.

183 NE 8 May 2025 at p 6 lines 7–9.

184 NE 8 May 2025 at p 13 lines 1–4.

185 DCS at para 199.

186 Agreed Bundle at p 199.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> I remembered once he took a plastic bag, he put his finger in it before putting inside my vigina [*sic*] and he took it out and told me to smell it. He said that is how I smelt before throwing it away. I was feeling confused again. It felt like I didn't understand what was happening and why this is happening. I know that it is something I don't look forward to.

86 This narrative recounted the use of a single finger. Subsequently, in her examination-in-chief, C said that DCC had used two fingers:[187]

> Q: So other than using his penis to penetrate your vagina, did he do any other sexual acts that you can recall?
>
> A: There was once he put two fingers -- sorry, his hand into a zip lock bag. It was a football -- it was a zip-lock bag with a football design, and he used two of his fingers to penetrate my vagina with the zip-lock bag. Yeah. Afterwards he took it out, and then he put the zip-lock bag to my face and then he told me that it was how I smelt like.

87 In my view, this discrepancy as to whether DCC had used one or two fingers does not amount to a material inconsistency in her overall testimony. The Trauma Narrative was the first time she recalled the incident to Ms Lau. C maintained throughout her testimony in court, in her evidence-in-chief, under cross-examination and re-examination, that DCC had used two fingers in the Zip-lock Bag Incident. The charge was therefore amended at the end of the re-examination from the use of the singular, finger, to the plural, fingers. C also maintained that she knew two fingers were used as DCC had brought the Zip-lock bag, with his fingers in it, up to her face.[188]

88 The second asserted inconsistency lay in what occurred after DCC had ceased digital penetration. In court, C testified that, after DCC stopped digitally

---

187 NE 5 May 2025 at p 37 lines 7–15.

188 NE 15 May 2025 at p 135 lines 5–23.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

penetrating C her, he proceeded to have sex with her.[189] The Defence submits that, in contrast, the account in her Trauma Narrative gave "the impression" that the Zip-lock Bag Incident "was a standalone incident of sexual assault".[190]

89 Ms Lau had explained in court that memories are often recorded in fragments, and the Trauma Narrative recorded the flow of memories.[191]

> By the passage of time as to everyone else, we will gradually forget some of the incidents, all of us, but when we have trauma victims because the way they store their memory is already different, their recall will also be different. So if you were to imagine fragmented memory means it is not something that flows in our brain chronologically, so it is not stored nicely in our long-term memory. So it comes by, flashes out whenever they want and that contributes to what we call the intrusive symptoms.

90 Reading the Trauma Narrative in its context, I find that there was no inconsistency in omitting reference to vaginal penetration following after the Zip-lock Bag Incident. The Trauma Narrative does not "give the impression" that it was a standalone incident. Rather, it was recounted as an unusual event that had happened during one of the regular instances of assault. Relatedly, the reference started with "once", and then the account reverts to her feelings about the usual instances of assault: "I was feeling confused *again*. It felt like I didn't understand what was happening and why this is happening. *I know that it is something I don't look forward to* [emphasis added]."

91 On a related note, I deal with the Defence submission in relation to C first stating in her Trauma Narrative that DCC used a "plastic bag" while in

---

189 NE 14 May 2025 at p 78 lines 18–24.

190 DCS at para 145(f).

191 NE 21 August 2025 at p 31 line 19 to p 33 line 15.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

court, she explained it was a Zip-lock bag with a football design. The Defence submitted that: "it is unusual that [C] would be able to describe the ziplock bag in ***more*** detail in Court as compared to when she was constructing the Trauma Narrative, since: (i) the [Trauma Narrative] would have been closer in time to the alleged incident; and (ii) the [Trauma Narrative] was constructed in the context of [C] attending Court [*sic*] therapy and not an adversarial Court setting [emphasis in original]".[192] This scepticism about the refinement in detail was not put to C nor was it tested with Ms Lau. To the contrary, it could be equally in keeping with Ms Lau's evidence (see [89]) to posit that the Trauma Narrative was the first time the memory surfaced as a fragment, and that C's evidence in court could well have been a more considered view of what she thereafter recalled on fuller reflection over a longer period of time. Ms Lau's role was also not to query for details but to record the memory fragments as they arose.

92 In conclusion, contrary to the Defence's submission, in my view, C's testimony of the Zip-lock Bag Incident is authentic and not "conjured". C's perspective on the incident was also peculiarly in keeping with her age and experience.

Generality of C's evidence

93 In contrast to the Defence's allegations regarding the Zip-lock Bag Incident, for the alleged incidents of rape, the Defence contends that, although C's allegations concern more than 300 assaults, her evidence is vague and

192 DCS at para 145(g).

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

sweeping,[193] and draws a conclusion therefrom that her evidence could not be probative.[194]

94 In my view, this generality is unsurprising in the light of C's age at the time of the incidents and the time which has passed since. The Defence counsel's submission rested on an assumption that the larger the number of incidents, the more specificity there would be. The opposite assumption, however, could as easily be true, in that the larger the number of incidents, the harder it would be to distinguish between them. C had mentioned in examination-in-chief, "there were too many incidences so I tend to mix up".[195] At various points in her cross-examination, C was honest about her inability to recall, such as when asked how long the acts took after she was able to tell the time.[196] At another point she spoke about her mind being "blanked out" at the material time of the incident,[197] a point also mentioned in her Trauma Narrative.[198] A salient issue, nevertheless, is the sufficiency of the evidence against DCC on each specific charge, a point to which I return to in this judgment, at [144].

Anal penetration

95 C testified that, as part of the sexual assaults, DCC had not only penetrated her vaginally using his finger, but anally as well. While these alleged

---

193 DCS at paras 184−189.

194 DCS at para 189.

195 NE 8 May 2025 at p2 lines 24-25.

196 NE 9 May 2025 at p 99 lines 3–19.

197 NE 9 May 2025 at p 83 line 24 to p 84 line 5.

198 Agreed Bundle at p 198.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

instances of anal penetration were not the subject matter of any charge preferred against DCC, it featured in C's narration of how some of these incidents transpired:[199]

> Q: So I will need you to describe again what happens when you are on the bed and he is on top of you?
>
> A: Okay. So first he would take off my shirt and then he would take off my pants and my underwear as well, and then he would start touching my chest area or sometimes kissing them. Then after he was done with whatever he was doing at my chest area he would sometimes put his fingers into my -- *either my vagina or anus, but I believe most of the time it was my vagina, because the vagina is more to the front than the anus. And then afterwards he would insert his penis into my vagina.* [emphasis added]

96 Similarly, in her KKH Report, C reported the following forms of penetration as having been inflicted on her by DCC:[200]

> According to the complainant, there was digital-vaginal, digital-anal, oral-vaginal, penile-vaginal, and penile-anal assault. There was no ejaculation.

Digital-anal penetration

97 Over the course of C's testimony, two inconsistencies arose. First, C contradicted her initial evidence regarding digital-anal penetration in cross-examination a week later:[201]

> Q: So, [C], my question is -- and maybe we should have been clearer. So when sometimes [DCC], you say, would put his finger, right, inside you, let's be clear. That would be inside your vagina?
>
> A: Yes.

---

199 NE 5 May 2025 at p 34 line 17 to p 35 line 2.

200 Agreed Bundle at p 13.

201 NE 13 May 2025 at p 42 line 24 to p 43 line 5.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> Q: And has he ever put his finger in your anus?
>
> A: *I don't think so.*
>
> [emphasis added]

98 C was however not asked to explain this discrepancy. The Defence did not point this inconsistency out to her or ask her to clarify. In *GII* (at [40]−[42]), Sundaresh Menon CJ held that where a seeming inconsistency was not put to a witness during cross-examination, it was not open for the same party to then contend that the witness' testimony should be rejected by reason of the said inconsistency. Instead, since the witness was not afforded the chance to provide an explanation, the court was entitled to consider all plausible possibilities for reconciling the alleged inconsistency.

99 In my view, C experienced difficulty of recall during her cross-examination, and it was clear on observation that the process was emotionally difficult for her. On a related note, C's evidence was that she was confused as to her anus and vagina in the earlier years.[202] While she was older by the time of the police report, this confusion in the earlier years could have affected her ability to recall the specificities of where or when this digital penetration had occurred. In my judgment, as she was not given any opportunity to explain, the single "I don't think so" is not sufficient to cast doubt on her testimony. I disregard this discrepancy.

Penile-anal penetration

100 A second area related to penile-anal penetration. I regard this issue differently from the issue of digital-anal penetration because defence counsel

---

202 NE 5 May 2025 at p 27 lines 11–19.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

did cross-examine C on it. C's evidence on how DCC would be positioned relative to her whenever anal penetration took place was as follows:[203]

> Q: How would [DCC's] position be in relation to you?
>
> A: [DCC's] position would be, like, over me. Like a bit of a 90-degree angle. I'm not very sure how to describe it, but he would be in between my legs as well.

101 C confirmed that DCC's position on the bed, relative to her, would be the same for both penile-vaginal and penile-anal penetration:[204]

> Q: Okay. Even on those occasions when you felt -- you say you felt that his penis was in your anus, was your face also still facing upwards on the bed, right?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Okay. And that position remained unchanged throughout, whether you say his penis was in your vagina or in your anus, correct?
>
> A: Yes.

102 The Defence pointed out that, if C was lying flat on her back with her legs on the bed, her anus would not be exposed,[205] especially if DCC was positioned "over" C and between C's legs,[206] or at the very least, C's legs would have to be significantly elevated while lying flat on her back in order for her anus to be exposed. C disagreed with the suggestion when it was put to her:[207]

> Q: The proposition is this. It is physically impossible for [DCC] to do so because of the position of the human body and the location of both your vagina and your anus in that position because you are facing upwards. You

---

203 NE 5 May 2025 at p 24 lines 3–7.

205 DCS at para 212.

206 NE 5 May 2025 at p 24 lines 3–7.

207 NE 13 May 2025 at p 86 line 24 to p 87 line 5.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> can either agree, disagree, or answer in any way you wish, okay, [C].
>
> A: I disagree.

103 C was not able to articulate why she disagreed. C testified that, when she was "around six years old", she could not tell whether the pain caused by penetration emanated from her vagina or anus because she "couldn't tell which one it was at that point of time".[208] Her evidence was that the anal penetration only took place in the beginning, and "near the end" it was vaginal. Although she was sure DCC penetrated her vagina each time, she could not recall the frequency with which he penetrated her anus. It was clear that C found it emotionally difficult to recall and to give evidence on the assaults on the stand. The use of dolls pursuant to a Defence request did not assist, because the dolls had no knees or muscles. C also found it emotionally difficult to look at the dolls. C's conclusion that there had been anal penetration rested on an assumption:[209]

> Q: And can you tell us the frequency of that, okay? That means -- tell us, is it, like, he would put his penis in your anus first and then the vagina, or just penis into your anus and – yeah, I'm going to stop there first. Is that the situation or what? Could you tell us?
>
> A: I'm not sure. Because I -- at the start I couldn't tell which part was the anus and which part was the vagina.
>
> Q: But at some point in time you are -- you seemed to give us the impression that you could tell, right?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Could you tell us when was that? That means with reference to K2, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, right? When were you able to tell that "He is putting his penis into my anus"?

---

208 NE 5 May 2025 at p 27 lines 11–19.

209 NE 13 May 2025 at p 43 line 25 to p 44 line 19.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> A: *I'm not sure. I just remember feeling like pain at the area that I excrete from sometimes, like poo.*
>
> Q: Okay. So that would be your --
>
> A: Anus.
>
> [emphasis added]

104 I find it unsatisfactory that her conclusion that there had been penile-anal penetration rested on an assumption. This assumption related to an area of pain, rather than a recall of penile penetration. I also find it unsatisfactory that C was not re-examined on penile-anal penetration. There were a range of possibilities arising from her assumption, her answer that she was unsure when the anal penetration occurred, the 90-degree angle of DCC's position, or even the physical flexibility that may be observed in very young children. The Prosecution's position was that the charges do not allege anal penetration. Nevertheless, C's evidence on anal penetration was part of her general narrative as to how a typical incident of sexual assault would transpire, and this narrative was the basis of charge A1. I take this into account in the analysis below, at [144].

C's continued presence on the third floor after the First Family Meeting

105 The last category of the Defence's contentions on the inconsistencies in C's evidence relate to her conduct at the Residence after the First Family Meeting and before the Second Family Meeting. As recounted above at [19], after the First Family Meeting, it was decided that C was not to go to the third floor of the Residence, and that she was to remain on the first floor of the Residence to study and play, whereas DCC and ABR would remain on the third

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

floor of the Residence.[210] However, C was bitten by mosquitos at the first floor, and decided to work in the master bedroom on the third floor instead:[211]

> Q: Where in your aunt's home will you do your homework after this [First Family Meeting]?
>
> A: At first I would do my homework around the first floor. So the dining area.
>
> […]
>
> Q: So do you always stay here at this table at [Exhibit] P13 to do your homework each day?
>
> A: No, because I'm very prone to mosquito bites, so I became very uncomfortable with mosquito bites. And to avoid this I went back up to level 3.
>
> Q: And where on level 3 did you do your work?
>
> A: I returned to my aunt's bedroom and the small table in my aunt's bedroom, because the L-shaped table was always -- usually occupied by [ABR] and [DCC].
>
> Q: You told us earlier that [DCC] did acts to you within your aunt's bedroom, so why would you go back to the same room?
>
> A: Because I was uncomfortable of the mosquito bites that I was receiving at the first floor.

106 The Defence submits that C's version of events is "unbelievable", and points to certain facets of C's evidence in support of this submission.[212]

107 First, C agreed that she was given instructions against going to the third floor of the Residence after the First Family Meeting:[213]

---

210 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 lines 13–24; NE 21 October 2025 at p 24 line 15 to p 25 line 3.

211 NE 5 May 2025 at p 32 line 2 to p 33 line 1.

212 DCS at para 217.

213 NE 14 May 2025 at p 23 lines 10–20.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> Q: Now, but we know that you told us that you then went back up to the third floor, correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: You agree that that's disobeying the clear instructions from your parents, [AMR] and in front of [AGM] what was discussed at the first family meeting. It is disobeying their instructions, agree?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Did you seek permission first, before you went upstairs to the third floor?
>
> A: No.

108 Second, C agreed that she never complained about the mosquitos on the first floor of the Residence while she was told to remain there:[214]

> Q: Did you tell anyone about the mosquito bites and so therefore, you want to go up back to the third floor? And I will be specific. Did you tell [AMR] about what you have just said? You get a lot of mosquito bites on the first floor, you get less on the third floor, so you want to go back up to the third floor. Did you tell [AMR] that?
>
> A: Can't remember.
>
> Q: Did you tell your mum that?
>
> A: I don't think so.
>
> Q: Did you tell your dad that?
>
> A: I don't think so.
>
> Q: Did you tell Grandma that?
>
> A: I don't think so.
>
> Q: Did you tell [FDH] that?
>
> A: I don't think so as well.

[214] NE 14 May 2025 at p 25 lines 1–16.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

109 Third, C had acknowledged that there were areas in the Residence other than the master bedroom which had fewer mosquitos than the first floor:[215]

> Q: Now, you said a moment ago that you get lesser mosquito bites on the upper floors, correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> […]
>
> Q: So there are three other upper floors that you could choose to avoid [DCC] and to have less mosquito bites. That would be second floor and the attic, the second, third floor and then the attic. Correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Is it your evidence that of all the upper floors to avoid the mosquitoes, you only went to the third floor, again, after the first family meeting, in disobedience of the instructions given to you?
>
> A: Yes, I went to the third floor.

110 Relatedly, C was clear that she was discomforted by and had experienced pain during the sexual assaults:[216]

> Q: So what we have established is that you said that you felt pain before the first family meeting. You felt pain when [DCC] put his penis into your vagina, correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: You say you would also feel pain if [DCC] put his penis into your anus before the first family meeting, correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: You said you were not comfortable with these acts before the first family meeting, correct?
>
> A: Yes, I mentioned that.

---

215 NE 14 May 2025 at p 25 line 17 to p 26 line 23.

216 NE 14 May 2025 at p 17 lines 15 to p 18 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

111 Further, C confirmed that the frequency of sexual assaults had increased from once a week to around two to three times a week at the material time:[217]

> Q: Now, we are now in the scenario where you have gone back up to the third floor, and is your evidence that [DCC] continued his sexual acts? Correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Now, the frequency, you said, increased to two to three times a week. Correct?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: And is it your evidence, having regard to the timing of the acts, you have said it's the same period of time, correct, between half an hour to an hour, thereabouts, based on your understanding. Correct?
>
> A: Yes.

112 C's behaviour also was at odds with CMR's testimony of CMR's instruction. CMR stated that, after the First Family Meeting, she had told C to inform her if anyone touched her:[218]

> A: I told her, if anything happen in [the Residence], you tell me. If anyone touch you, then correct it's not just stranger, it's family members touch you or even teachers touch you, you have to tell us.

113 Additionally, CMR testified that she had reminded FDH and SDH that C was not to go to the third floor of the Residence alone.[219] CMR recalled that FDH, SDH and AMR had all called her to inform that C had gone to the third floor in contravention of her instructions.[220] CMR stated that, during these calls,

---

217 NE 14 May 2025 at p 27 lines 14–25.

218 NE 10 September 2025 at p 85 lines 1–4.

219 CS of CMR at para 6, Agreed Bundle at p 1; NE 10 September 2025 at p 67 lines 3–24.

220 NE 10 September 2025 at p 67 line 25 to p 69 line 3.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

she would request that they pass the phone to C. CMR would then ask C why she went to the third floor, to which C would reply that she wanted to study on the third floor as the first floor had "a lot of mosquitos" and the second floor had no table available for her use.[221] CMR would then state that she was upset with C and that C had no reason to go to the third floor.[222] According to CMR, C would then provide the following response:[223]

> Q: You would tell her, I would imagine, that, "[C], don't go upstairs to the third floor"; correct?
>
> A: I asked her why she went upstairs.
>
> Q: That's a more –
>
> A: Yes, correct.
>
> Q: But what was the concluding instructions, yet again? It would be?
>
> A: It would be that somebody is using the living room or there is pest control coming in or my -- there is tuition downstairs, so therefore she has to go to the third floor to study.

114 According to CMR, she had received such calls on "a few occasions",[224] though she estimated that this occurred "less than 10" times.[225] During cross-examination, CMR agreed that these calls "strongly suggested" that her domestic helpers and AMR would report to her every time they saw C on the third floor after the First Family Meeting.[226] CMR also stated that, though she had told her domestic helpers that C was not to go to the third floor of the

---

221 NE 10 September 2025 at p 68 lines 8–23.

222 NE 10 September 2025 at p 70 lines 3–22.

223 NE 10 September 2025 at p 82 line 17 to p 83 line 2.

224 NE 10 September 2025 at p 70 lines 14–15.

225 NE 10 September 2025 at p 81 lines 10–25.

226 NE 10 September 2025 at p 82 lines 1–10.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Residence alone, she was unsure if the domestic helpers had ensured this as they were busy with looking after CYR and CYT.[227]

C's explanations

115 In sum, it is not disputed that C returned, of her own volition, to the third floor to study after the First Family Meeting. While there was a standing instruction that she ought to study on the ground floor, from CMR's evidence as well as her own, she did not abide by this instruction. In my assessment of the Defence's submission that her evidence is not credible, I am mindful of the observation in *GBR v Public Prosecutor and another appeal* [2018] 3 SLR 1048 at [20], that victims of sexual crimes cannot be straightjacketed in the expectation that they must act or react in a certain manner (see also *GHI v Public Prosecutor* [2024] 5 SLR 607 at [35]). Therefore, I focus on C's explanation. The issue under consideration pertains to the particular victim and her specific reality.

116 Regarding the other rooms in the house, C testified that she did not go to the second floor as she did not want to disturb her brothers, who were very young and would be napping in AGM's room.[228] C also testified that there was no space in the attic to study.[229]

---

227 NE 10 September 2025 at p 83 line 8 to p 84 line 6.

228 NE 14 May 2025 at p 35 lines 19 to p 36 line 9; p 39 lines 15–24.

229 NE 14 May 2025 at p 36 line 19 to p 37 line 4.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

117 Regarding her continuing to go to the third floor, C explained in examination-in-chief that she tolerated the sexual acts because it was meant to be good for her:[230]

> Q: Can you tell me how you felt at around this time when the incidents resumed even after the first family meeting?
>
> A: I believe I was okay with it. I mean, it was still uncomfortable, but because it is supposed to be good for me, so I just tolerated it.

118 Re-examined on the portion above, C testified that, at the material time, she was not actively trying to avoid being alone with DCC because she still did not understand that what DCC did to her was wrong:[231]

> Q: Can you explain your answer?
>
> A: I wasn't trying -- sorry, I wasn't actively trying to avoid being alone with [DCC], because I still didn't understand that what he did to me was wrong.
>
> Q: So when you returned to [AMR's] bedroom to continue doing homework there after the first family meeting, did [AMR] know about this, to your knowledge?
>
> A: Sorry, know about what?
>
> Q: About you returning to her bedroom to do homework even after the first family meeting.
>
> A: I think so.
>
> Q: So we understand that the outcome of the first family meeting was that the adults had told you not to go up to the third floor but you still went to [AMR's] bedroom after that, and then you've said that you think that [AMR] knows that you went back to her bedroom. Did no one tell you to – did anyone tell you not to be there?
>
> A: No.

---

230 NE 5 May 2025 at p 36 lines 14–19.

231 NE 15 May 2025 at p 132 line 22 to p 134 line 4.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

119 C's testimony was that she "did not know what [the sexual acts which DCC committed on her] [were] at the time".[232]

> Q: Okay. So you told us initially that you didn't know what [DCC] did to you was wrong. How did you realise later that it was wrong?
>
> A: Later on, after the second family meeting, I believe it was somewhere between P6 and Secondary 1, I read a news article about a lady getting raped, and I realised that it was quite similar to what I had experienced in my childhood. So then I went and searched Google on what it was, and I realised that what had happened in my childhood, in fact, like, was wrong, and it wasn't really rape. Sorry, it was rape, but, like, it wasn't what I thought it was.
>
> Q: Can you elaborate on your last statement when you said that "it wasn't what I thought it was"?
>
> A: When I meant that it wasn't what I thought it was, I meant that, like, because I thought that what [DCC] was doing to me was playing and it was not out of the ordinary because I had did that since I was extremely young, I thought, like, everyone does such things with either their cousins or, like, their friends. So when I read that it was actually rape, I faced some form of, like, denial at some point, but I came to realise that, yeah, it was rape.

The familial factors relevant to the context of C's explanations

120 The reasons C listed for continuing to study at the third floor after being told not to were, therefore: that she believed DCC when he told her the penetration was "good for her"; she was able to tolerate it; and that she did not know it was rape. These reasons must be examined in her specific familial context.

---

232 NE 8 May 2025 at p 5 line 12 to p 6 line 9.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

121 First, she and DCC were close. He was the cousin nearest in age to her, and they saw each other every weekday when they spent their afternoons at the Residence. He was "a sibling" to her (see [123] below), and was also four years older. For this reason, she explained with candid honesty that she did not understand the acts to be anything but innocent:[233]

> Q: At this point in time, what was your understanding about sex?
>
> A: I cannot remember, but I remember my mum telling me that if someone I didn't know touched me on my private parts, then I had to tell her. But in my eyes [DCC] was not someone who I didn't know. Actually, he was not unfamiliar face at all, because I saw him throughout my childhood.
>
> Q: But at the time, what was your understanding of what [DCC] had done to you?
>
> A: I thought that he was just, like, touching me or playing with me. I didn't know it was anything out the ordinary; I just thought it was normal.

122 Second, she was extremely close to and trusted AMR and AGM. It is clear from the evidence that both AMR and AGM dismissed her views, and their doing so would have had significant impact on her, because of her close relationship with them.

123 She described her relationship with AMR, DCC and ABR as follows:[234]

> Q: Now, when you were younger and still staying at your aunt's place during the day, how would you describe your relationship with your father's side of the family?
>
> A: I would describe our relationship as a close-knit family because I -- my siblings and I, we went there every day, so we were -- we talked to this side of the family every day and we were basically as good as siblings, and I

233 NE 8 May 2025 at p 26 lines 2–21.

234 NE 5 May 2025 at p 19 line 16 to p 20 line 1.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> personally saw [AMR] as my own -- sorry, not my own, like a second maternal figure to me.

124 Similarly, C testified that she was close to AGM:[235]

> Q: And how would you describe your relationship with your grandmother?
>
> A: I would say my grandmother and I were quite close as well. Sometimes I would help her with household chores.

125 This second factor was linked to a third, that both AMR and AGM had essentially brushed C's complaints aside as lies. Upon hearing her complaint which led to the First Family Meeting, AMR had scolded C and told her not to lie:[236]

> Q: When [AMR] is cooking you are telling her that [DCC] touched you. You can't recall what details you told her but minimally that [DCC] touched you. She scolded you and told you not to lie. This is while she was cooking?
>
> A: Yes.
>
> Q: Then you felt hurt. Correct? That's what you say?
>
> A: Yes.

126 In a similar vein, AGM had told C to tell everyone at the First Family Meeting that she had lied about DCC touching her:[237]

> Q: Did your grandmother say anything to you?
>
> A: I believe she told me to tell everyone that I was lying about this.
>
> Q: How did you feel when your grandmother told you to tell others that you (inaudible)?

---

235 NE 5 May 2025 at p 20 lines 16–20.

236 NE 13 May 2025 at p 126 lines 6–13.

237 NE 5 May 2025 at p 30 line 25 to p 31 line 12.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

A: I was personally a bit upset and I can't really understand also because I -- firstly I didn't know that what [DCC] was doing to me was wrong, and secondly, like, it's the truth. So I really didn't know, like, if it's the truth and -- sorry, if it's the truth and it was okay, like, why do I have to admit that I'm lying about something? Yeah, I really couldn't understand it.

127 AGM was adamant under cross-examination that C was lying:[238]

Q: Okay. So we say that the second family meeting came about because [C] had again alleged that [DCC] had molested her?

A: No, it did not happen.

Q: We say that at this meeting she was also crying and she was gesturing at which part of her body she was being touched. Do you agree or disagree?

A: I definitely disagree. She is lying.

Q: Do you remember telling [C] that she was lying at these meetings?

A: Yes.

Q: So you told [C] to tell other adults that she was lying about what?

A: She anyhow say.

128 AGM did not furnish any basis for her belief that C lied even when asked specifically at the end of her evidence:[239]

COURT: I just have one question. [AGM], you remember telling [C] that she was lying at these meetings and you answered "Yes"?

A: Yes.

COURT: How did you know that she was lying?

A: She will just anyhow say things.

---

238 NE 17 October 2025 at p 15 line 16 to p 16 line 4.

239 NE 17 October 2025 at p 18 lines 12–17.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

129 Fourth, the two families were extremely close.[240] AMR was CFR's elder sister and had brought him up.[241] AGM looked after C while CMR and CFR were at work, and CMR and CFR ate dinner at the Residence every weekday evening.[242] Even on Sunday nights, they got together with others within the extended family. In CMR's words, AMR was "the best sister-in-law anybody could have".[243] AMR was a homemaker who ran and ordered matters at the Residence. In her words, arrangements were settled "all based on what I say".[244]

130 These factors accounted for C's omission to raise an alarm. C explained that, up to the time she WhatsApp-ed CGF about DCC raping her, she had decided not to raise the matter again because of the relationships at stake:

> Q: We are going to the messages. I turn you to page 112. I will be looking at messages from serial number 376 to about 383, between pages 112 and 113. You said at about serial number 376: "It's just hard to tell people. So I wld usually just kinda accept" And 380: "It's far easier than telling them". 382: "Like who goes around telling people HEY I'VE BEEN RAPED WHEN I WAS A CHILD". Now, what do you mean when you said that you would just kind of accept it, at 377?
>
> A: I would just -- during this time I would just try to accept the fact that I'm not going to do anything about it. I was not going to do anything about the incidents where [DCC] raped me, and I just wanted to leave it as it is. Because as I say just now, it was really hard for me to tell even my family about it because I felt very bad that it was just affecting everyone.

240 NE 21 October 2025 at p 4 lines 1–16.

241 NE 12 September 2025 at p 53 lines 8–11; NE 12 September 2025 at p 59 lines 20–23.

242 NE 21 October 2025 at p 76 lines 5–11.

243 NE 10 September 2025 at p 22 lines 7–8.

244 NE 21 October 2025 at p 29 line 24 to p 30 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

131 This context was reflected in C's Trauma Narrative, which gave insight into her thinking:

> Chapter 3
>
> My growing up years
>
> Since I was little, my 1st aunt took care of me. My parents were working and she is a housewife. My parents would send me to their house everyday and my 1st aunt and grandma would take care of me. I think she was quite motherly, she used to bring me out for lunch daily and she is kinda of like a 2nd mother to me. She has 2 children, [ABR] (6 years my senior) and [DCC] (4 years my senior). We grew up together as a family unit. I was also close to my grandma, I would sometimes sleep with her and help her out with the chores.
>
> I don't really remember my parents during my growing up years. During the weekdays, we would only go back home to sleep. We would only spend weekends together and we still got to meet relatives on those days. As such, the memories with my parents were quite faint. School was also uneventful.

132 C's normalisation of the sexual incidents within this familial context was reflected in her Trauma Narrative. After the First Family Meeting, she recounted:[245]

> Chapter 6
>
> My first reveal
>
> … My parents took it that [DCC] accidentally touched me and ignore the incident. I thought to myself that it is probably normal since they were okay with it. I wasn't angry or sad that nobody helped me, I just kept thinking it was a normal act. They told me to stay at level 1 because there's a lot of mosquitoes. I went back to my aunt room, he started doing it again and he said to me "you better not tell anyone".

133 This normalisation is also reflected in her characterisation of the period between the First and Second Family Meetings:

---

245 Agreed Bundle at p 200, Chapter 6.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> Chapter 7:
>
> it became worse
>
> He started doing up to 2 to 3 times a week. He start to get me to kiss him as well. By that time, I didn't think much of it. It became part of my life. There was this one time, my brother saw [DCC] touching me. We were watching YouTube on my aunt's ipad and sitting side by side. My legs were blocking the ipad, and told me to move away. [DCC] said move away and hit my inner thighs. My brother and I told my parents, but they thought were an accident and took it as a small matter. I was upset this time. I kept quiet and after awhile, I got used to being ignore. I guess being ignored is normal, no help is given to me. I felt helpless, I think nobody would help me because they won't believe what I say. I did think my brother would believe me, but he was too young. The feeling helplessness is hurtful, it feels like I have very little protection. *I remembered that when I don't do homework, my mum would threaten to send me to child care. I was told that childcare gives kids the same food and it is a really bad place. So I thought I should keep quiet so that I can continue to stay at the house.*
>
> [emphasis added]

134 Defence counsel cross-examined C at length on the thigh incident.[246] In brief, C maintained that DCC had hit her inner thigh as described in her Trauma Narrative,[247] and that this had occurred after the First Family Meeting.[248] C recalled that she reported this hitting of her inner thigh to her parents.[249] C could not recall the exact words she used when she reported this, but agreed that she did not say that she was "touched".[250] When asked why C reported this incident

---

246 NE 14 May 2025 at p 55 line 5

247 NE 14 May 2025 at p 61 line 8 to p 62 line 11.

248 NE 14 May 2025 at p 58 line 22.

249 NE 14 May 2025 at p 65 lines 3−12.

250 NE 14 May 2025 at p 65 line 25 to p 66 line 11.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

to her parents, C stated that "it was embarrassing" because CYR had witnessed this specific incident.[251]

135 In my view, while the slapping on the thigh was not a sexual assault, it was intimate and disrespectful, which was clear even to her younger brother who supported her in her report of it. Her evidence that she was embarrassed by this public display of disdain for her bodily autonomy on her cousin's part in front of her brother is believable. The feeling of being "helpless" which she associated with this incident is also believable. This same helplessness is reflected in Chapter 8 in her characterisation of the Second Family Meeting:

> Chapter 8
>
> The 2nd report
>
> At 11 years old, I told another helper. I was close to her and I decided to tell her because I really needed someone to talk to. I told her that [DCC] touched me but I didn't tell her about the sex. She thought it was touching and she told me to tell my aunt. I went to tell my aunt that [DCC] touched me, she was angry at me and again told me not to lie of this type of serious matter. I didn't cry, I was used to it. My parents came over for dinner, and there was this talk in my grandma's bedroom. We were all in it with [DCC]. He kept denying. At that point, they still thought it was touching. My parents said all 3 of us are going to move back home for good. *At the point of time, I also didn't want to move back to my own house because I have grown up in this house.* My grandma said to me to not break the family apart and my brothers would also not be able to stay in my aunt's house any more. One of my brother is my grandma's favourite child. So she told me to tell everyone that it is all a lie. I felt so wronged. They didn't treat it seriously, I felt like none of them believed me. At the same time, I felt really bad. My grandma used to ask me if I will take care of my aunt when she gets old. I always said yes. I felt like I am now biting the hands that feed me.
>
> I went home, nothing happened at home. *We didn't go to child care, my helper takes care of us.* I still didn't think they believe me at that time. *They didn't seem to treat the thing seriously. I*

251 NE 14 May 2025 at p 65 lines 12–25.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> *didn't know what to expect but we still over to their house over the weekends for visit.* I felt weird going over to their house on the weekend and felt very awkward. I didn't mention it anyone.
>
> [emphasis added]

136 Pulling the threads together, it was CMR's evidence that C continued to go to the third floor to study. CMR testified after C and so there was no opportunity to question C on it. In any event, C's view was that AMR knew that she had returned to the third floor.[252] That CMR was unable to deter C from going to the third floor reflected their lack of a close relationship where problems could be resolved with communication and joint problem-solving. In my view, C's continuing to go to the third floor in these circumstances did not reflect defiance, as defence counsel suggested, but a common response of children to rules that they do not understand as meaningful or rules that are not strictly enforced. C similarly did not follow through on AGM's instruction after the First Family Meeting for her to tell the whole family that she was lying. At the same time, C was deeply trusting of DCC, AMR and AGM. Fundamental to this is her lack of understanding at the material time that what was happening was rape. Her going to the third floor despite the incidents could be rationalised by her close relationship with DCC, and her deep trust in AMR and AGM. She had no reason to surmise that DCC would deeply harm her, or that AMR or AGM would brush aside a situation that was dangerous to her. Within her childish context, the pain of mosquito bites would be constant, and the continued itch could well be unbearable. While the sexual incidents were twice or three times a week, she was used to that particular form of pain, which she testified that she found tolerable over time. In her naïve mind, being sent to childcare and having to eat the food served there posed a greater terror. Her false

252 NE 15 May 2025 at p 134 line 20.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

thinking was explained by her age, particular experiences and familial circumstances. These same factors also explained, and were fully consistent with, her late realisation and late reporting.

137 In the light of the overall context, C's behaviour was consistent with her familial circumstances and character.

Was C unusually convincing?

138 The above analysis forms the heart of the answer as to whether C was unusually convincing. The unusually convincing standard is a stringent one, requiring a complainant to be "so convincing that the Prosecution's case was proven beyond reasonable doubt solely on the basis of her evidence": see *Mohammed Liton* at [38], citing *Teo Keng Pong v Public Prosecutor* [1996] 2 SLR(R) 890 at [73]. Any doubt must be resolved in favour of the Defence.

139 At the same time, a case such as the present calls for a close assessment of the particular child, with her particular daily circumstances, her own development and awareness, and her specific familial and parental context. Children exist on a wide spectrum of maturity, intelligence, practical awareness and resilience to pain. In *GCK*, Menon CJ observed at [97]:

> … the evidence of children should not be assessed from the perspective of stereotypes, but on a common sense basis. Each child witness, regardless of his or her age, should have his or her credibility and evidence assessed by reference to criteria appropriate to his or her mental development, understanding and ability to communicate.

140 In this context, I consider the whole of C's conduct over the years from her first complaint up to the time of the police report. The Defence's submissions focus very substantially on how these events were not

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

corroboration.[253] Nevertheless, the various events are still relevant under ss 9, 11 and 14 of the Evidence Act 1893 (2020 Rev Ed) (the "EA") in reflecting either a consistent or inconsistent course of conduct and explaining C's thinking and approach. C's complaint that led to the First Family Meeting occurred *prior* to charges A1−A3. While it is less relevant in probative value in respect of a specific offence, it explains C's subsequent thinking. While the Second Family Meeting was on the same day as the incident underlying charge A2 and came within the timeframe envisaged by s 159 of the EA, the section contemplates a former statement "relating to the same fact". It therefore has little corroborative weight. Nonetheless, C's hand gestures, as reflected in the testimony of her parents, are consistent with her age at the time of the reporting and her evidence on the stand as to her understanding. C's later complaints − in the Laptop Incident, her WhatsApp conversations with CGF, and her reporting to her parents on or around 29 September 2020 – are outside the window of s 159 of the EA. Nevertheless, the absence of corroboration is not fatal. The unusually convincing standard is premised on the absence of corroboration. Evidence that is not corroborative remains relevant and must be considered in the context of the question of whether the whole of C's conduct forms part of a context that is consistent. I have held at [120]–[137] that her familial context explained how the assaults continued. C's reaction on her 12th birthday and her subsequent reports and conduct thereafter, viewed in the round, give texture to her consistency and reflect a child finally finding the courage to speak for herself.

141 Returning to the medical evidence, while I hold that the symptoms of PTSD cannot amount to independent corroboration, as I observed above at [54], these symptoms were not inconsistent with the assaults having taken place.

[253] DCS at paras 21 – 146.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Again, the absence of corroboration is not fatal. It is material and unreconciled inconsistency that is fatal. I view the gynaecological evidence similarly. Dr Li[254] examined C on 3 February 2021.[255] Her KKH Report noted old tears at the three and eight o'clock positions of C's hymenal ring, but no fresh tears or bleeding.[256] Dr Li explained that tearing between the three and nine o'clock positions of the hymenal ring was "suggestive of possible penetration".[257] Dr Li explained her conclusion as such:[258]

> A: This is because if, let's say, there is penetration of the -- penetration into the vagina, the penetrating object would follow the path of the vaginal canal, which is generally in the downward and inward position. So by going by the path of least resistance, the object would be then -- the friction or the injury or the tear would then be more evident in the posterior half of the hymenal ring, because anteriorly, the urethra, the ring hole, would be blocking it in a sense.

142 As C was not examined within 72 hours of the alleged penetration, Dr Li was unable to testify as to the age of the tears.[259] Arising from this, Dr Li's evidence is not definitive as to whether penile-vaginal penetration had occurred.[260] It is, nevertheless, not inconsistent with C's evidence.

143 Having considered the whole of the evidence, I find C's evidence on her reasons, context and conduct convincing and compelling. In doing so, I clarify

---

254 ASOF at para 13.

255 Agreed Bundle at pp 11−14.

256 Agreed Bundle at p 13.

257 NE 9 September 2025 at p 17 line 19 to p 20 line 22.

258 NE 9 September 2025 at p 18 lines 2−11.

259 NE 9 September 2025 at p 28 line 15 to p 29 line 14.

260 Agreed Bundle at p 30.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

that I do not take into account the Prosecution's submission that C had no motive to lie. The absence of a proven motive is in itself insufficient to render a complainant's testimony unusually convincing and thereby establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt: see *Yue Roger Jr* at [50].

Charge A1

144 I turn then to the specific charges, as each charge must be proved on its own merits. The Prosecution's case for charge A1 relies on C's evidence as to a general course of conduct. In this context, the general course of conduct includes anal penetration on occasion, and the issue of anal penetration is not well explained. I pointed out these aspects at [100]–[104]. While the Prosecution points out that anal penetration is not alleged within A1, it was not clear whether anal penetration was said to have occurred during the specific incident that is the subject matter of A1. C did not particularise a specific incident said to have given rise to charge A1. While I accept she was a truthful witness, I am concerned with the sufficiency of detail on A1. I find it unsafe to hold that the Prosecution has met its burden of proof on this charge.

Charge A3

145 Charge A3, in contrast, carried specificity. Its details, and C's reaction, were unique and consistent with her confusion and naïveté. For the reasons that I detail at [81]–[92] and [120]–[143], I am of the view that her evidence on this charge is unusually convincing.

Charge A2

146 Charge A2 was a further specific incident. This happened prior to DCC's tuition session, and on the same afternoon as C's report to AMR that led to the

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Second Family Meeting. C recalled that DCC penetrated her vagina and touched her breasts. In contrast to A1, her evidence on this charge is not tainted by her confusion in relation to anal penetration, as anal penetration was not alleged in this instance. She recalled that after the Zip-lock Bag Incident, the incidents involved kissing and touching of her breasts and penetration of her vagina with his penis.[261] Her evidence of this incident recalled the intrusion of breasts and vagina only. Further, this charge concerns the last instance of rape and C was clear that "closer to the end it was the vagina".[262] The Second Family Meeting stemmed from this incident, even though the report C made is of limited value as corroboration because C was unable to specify the assault with particularity. For the reasons highlighted at [120]–[143], I find C's evidence unusually convincing on charge A2.

147 With this in mind, I address the second angle mentioned in *GII* and review whether the Defence has raised a reasonable doubt on the totality of the evidence.

Case mounted by the Defence

148 The Defence's case was premised on the consistency of DCC's denials, and multiple implausibility arguments. I address these in turn.

Consistency of DCC's denials

149 The Defence submits that DCC was "remarkably consistent in denying any allegation of wrongdoing" at the First Family Meeting, the Second Family Meeting, in his Video-Recorded Interview ("VRI Statement") with the police

261 NE 5 May 2025 at p 39 lines 8–10.

262 NE 13 May 2025 at p 43 line 18.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

on 4 January 2021, and in his testimony in court.[263] This consistent denial was relied upon in written submissions as "a striking feature of the present case" which "lends an air of credibility" to DCC's testimony.[264]

150 In my judgment, the repetition of a denial cannot imbue it with probative force. Previous consistent statements cannot prove a statement to be true; nor can mere repetition render a witness credible.

151 Relatedly, I make a point about DCC's denials. I pause to note the extreme nature of DCC's denial at the Second Family Meeting. On DCC's own evidence, when he was confronted with the allegation that he had touched C at the Second Family Meeting, he responded with, "I will jump down the building to prove my innocence".[265] When questioned on why he would say such a thing, DCC explained as follows:[266]

> A: Because when I was younger, I always watch movie shows and in those shows they always use death as a way to prove their love or their innocence. So I thought I will just do the same thing to prove my own innocence, yes.

152 In my view, the offer to commit suicide is extraordinary as a response to C's opaque and unclear complaint. However, DCC's view of the Second Family Meeting was that it was heated and that CFR was not giving him an opportunity to speak. DCC could be given the benefit of the doubt as an exasperated 15-year-old. Nevertheless, I agree with the Prosecution's

---

263 DCS at paras 248–249.

264 DCS at para 252.

265 NE 14 October 2025 at p 29 lines 13–15.

266 NE 14 October 2025 at p 29 lines 17–21.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

submission that DCC's response is incongruous with his defence at trial. At trial, DCC raised, for the first time, that he did not, over the course of the many years, have any opportunity to be alone with C. If this were the case, it would have been a natural and easy response for DCC to say at the Second Family Meeting that there had been no opportunity to be alone with C on any recent date. Under cross-examination, DCC agreed that he did not raise this lack of opportunity at the First Family Meeting,[267] the Second Family Meeting,[268] and during the recording of his VRI Statement.[269]

153 In this context, I turn to the multiple implausibility arguments made.

The Defence's implausibility arguments

154 The remaining two of the eleven contentions made by the Defence on C's evidence in its written submissions relate to implausibility.

Implausibility because the door could not be locked

155 As recounted above at [10], it was C's evidence that, as a prelude to a typical incident of sexual assault, DCC would first close and lock the master bedroom door. The Defence asserts that C's testimony on this point is implausible, as:[270]

(a) There were house rules in place which prohibited the children in the Residence from locking doors; and

---

267 NE 14 October 2025 at p 99 lines 11−18; NE 15 October 2025 at p 45 lines 10−15.

268 NE 15 October 2025 at p 45 lines 16−24.

269 Exhibit P88T (Transcript for the video-recorded interview of DCC under s 22 of the CPC on 4 January 2021).

270 DCS at para 240.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

(b) In any event, the door to the master bedroom was defective and could not be properly locked.

156 The Defence submits that DCC, ABR and AMR "all unanimously testified that there was a house rule that doors could not be locked".[271] The Defence also points to AMR's testimony that she would enforce her house rules and discipline the children if they disobeyed.[272] Conversely, C stated that the only clear house rule was not to place bags on AMR's bed,[273] and that it was permissible to close and lock doors in the Residence.[274]

157 One would expect that if clear house rules were in place, these would be understood in the same way by DCC, ABR and AMR. The evidence provided by the Defence's witnesses on the house rules varied save for their insistence that doors could not be locked:

(a) According to DCC, the house rules prohibited the closing and locking of doors, the use of air-conditioning in the day, and specific to him, the use of the computer in the Residence.[275]

(b) According to ABR, the house rules prohibited the slamming of doors and the locking of doors, and required permission to be granted for the use of air-conditioning in the day.[276]

---

271 DCS at para 241.

272 DCS at para 241.

273 NE 8 May 2025 at p 70 lines 2−10.

274 NE 13 May 2025 at p 16 line 13 to p 20 line 12.

275 NE 14 October 2025 at p 15 line 15 to p 16 line 9.

276 NE 16 October 2025 at p 13 lines 14−18.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

(c) According to AMR, the house rules prohibited the closing and locking of doors, the use of air-conditioning in the day, the use of mobile phones till 8pm,[277] and the use of the iPad or television in the day.[278]

158 These variations were not major. Tellingly, however, ABR was explicitly asked to clarify if there was a house rule prohibiting the closing of doors, to which ABR confirmed that he could not recall such a rule:[279]

Q:	There is no house rule that you cannot close any door in your house, do you agree or disagree with that?
A:	I do not recall.
COURT:	What do you not recall, ABR?
A:	My mum would –
COURT:	What is it that you don't recall?
A:	I don't recall there being any rule about this, but my mum did express her dislike for us leaving the door closed.

159 Aside from the *content* of the house rules, there was also inconsistencies between the Defence's witnesses as to the *enforcement* of the same. DCC testified that AMR was "very strict with her rules",[280] and that the consequence of breaking a house rule was being "scolded by both my parents".[281] ABR also testified that the consequence of breaking any house rule was being "harshly

277 NE 21 October 2025 at p 12 line 22 to p 13 line 8.

278 NE 21 October 2025 at p 69 lines 11–20.

279 NE 16 October 2025 at p 51 lines 14–22.

280 NE 14 October 2025 at p 6 line 7.

281 NE 14 October 2025 at p 40 line 22 to p 41 line 1.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

scolded" by AMR.[282] At trial, AMR described herself as a "tiger mum".[283] However, AMR also stated that, from 2013 to 2018, she was not aware of a single occasion where the children would watch television in contravention of the house rules as construed by her.[284] This is contradicted by AMR's own statement to the police, in which she recounted an incident where C was in the master bedroom watching television with DCC.[285]

160 Plainly, and as pointed out by the Prosecution, if it were true that there were clear and unequivocal house rules which were strictly enforced, these house rules would have been something that the Defence's witnesses would have given a consistent account of. However, this was not so and, accordingly, I disbelieve DCC's assertion that there were clear house rules.

161 I similarly disbelieve the Defence's assertion that the master bedroom door was defective. The evidence provided by the Defence's witnesses on the functionality of the door is materially inconsistent with one another. I summarise the differing and fluid accounts below:

(a) DCC initially stated that, since he never locked the master bedroom door, he did not know if it could be locked.[286] When asked whether this state of knowledge persists to-date, DCC stated that he

282 NE 16 October 2025 at p 13 line 23 to p 14 line 2.

283 NE 21 October 2025 at p 12 line 9.

284 NE 21 October 2025 at p 70 lines 11−20.

285 NE 22 October 2025 at p 18 line 3 to p 20 line 11.

286 NE 14 October 2025 at p 13 lines 21−25.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

continued not to know,[287] only to then state that he in fact knew that the door could be locked.[288]

(b) ABR stated that the master bedroom door could be closed only if it is locked.[289] To lock the door, one would have to "push the door in completely, and then […] lift up the handle at a certain degree and then the – that thing in the door will align with the hole in the wall".[290] It "could take about a minute to completely close" the door.[291]

162 AMR gave inconsistent evidence on the lock. In her police statement, AMR inserted a handwritten paragraph which read "I wish to add that the lock for my master bedroom door is spoilt and cannot be locked. I wonder why [C] mention [*sic*] that [DCC] locks the door?".[292] While she posed the query in her police statement, her cross-examination revealed that she knew of C's position that the door was locked:[293]

> Q: Okay, and she also did not tell you that [DCC] locked your room door, is that your evidence?
>
> A: [DCC] locked the room door?
>
> Q: Yes. Did [C] tell you that?
>
> A: They did tell me that.
>
> Q: So [C] told you that [DCC] locked the room door and that -- did you with say didn't or did, [AMR]? What is your answer? Did [C] tell you that [DCC] locked the room door?

---

287 NE 14 October 2025 at p 89 lines 2 −10.

288 NE 14 October 2025 at p 89 line 17 to p 90 line 17.

289 NE 16 October 2025 at p 51 lines 1−13.

290 NE 16 October 2025 at p 12 lines 1−17.

291 NE 16 October 2025 at p 12 line 22 to p 13 line 1.

292 NE 22 October 2025 at p 23 lines 1−7.

293 NE 21 October 2025 at p 112 line 8 to p 113 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

A: She did tell me that [DCC] locked the room door.

163 More importantly, when cross-examined, AMR stated that, from 2013 to 2018, the master bedroom door could be locked "with effort".[294] Subsequently, AMR stated that the lock worked intermittently or, in her words, "sometimes can lock, sometimes cannot lock".[295] She equivocated as follows:[296]

Q: No, I am asking you that you knew all along from 2013 to 2018 that the door could be locked, your knowledge? Do you understand my question?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. So could we have your answer, please?

A: Yes.

Q: What is your answer? Yes, you knew all along?

A: Yes, I knew all along it could be locked, but I already told you that the lock is sometimes can lock, sometimes cannot lock. So all along I cannot tell you 100% the door could be locked.

When asked again about the lock the next day, AMR replied that "the door actually cannot be locked. Only I know how to do it. The adult know how to do it".[297] She was not re-examined on these various iterations.

164 Having considered the totality of the evidence before me, I am satisfied that the master bedroom door could be locked throughout 2013 to 2018, and the Defence's implausibility arguments premised on this point must fail.

---

294 NE 21 October 2025 at p 41 lines 4–25.

295 NE 21 October 2025 at p 42 lines 1–5.

296 NE 21 October 2025 at p 41 line 20 to p 42 line 5.

297 NE 22 October 2025 at p 24 lines 23–25.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Implausibility because of lack of opportunity

165 The Defence asserts that C's evidence is implausible given the circumstances at the Residence on weekdays between 2013 and 2018, namely:[298]

(a) That DCC had tuition every weekday which would last till dinnertime.[299]

(b) That other persons at the Residence would be on the third floor of the Residence, where the master bedroom is located.[300]

I deal with these two assertions in turn.

(1) Lack of time spent together

166 The upshot of DCC's evidence was that, from 2013 till 2018, he had no opportunity to be alone with C. To that end, DCC claimed that, on a typical weekday afternoon, the following sequence of events would occur.[301] First, AMR would fetch him, ABR and C from school. Then, all of them would go to VivoCity to have lunch and buy groceries. Thereafter, they would return to the Residence, where he would shower and then have tuition, which started at 3.30pm. When tuition ended at 5.30pm, he would immediately go to the first floor to have dinner. When DCC started to attend Secondary School, this sequence of events remained the same, save for Wednesdays and Fridays when he had CCA in school till 6.30pm. [302]

---

298 DCS at para 226.

299 DCS at para 226(b).

300 DCS at para 228.

301 NE 14 October 2025 at p 18 line 5 to p 21 line 25.

302 NE 14 October 2025 at p 46 lines 4−25.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

167 The Defence's witnesses provided contradictory accounts on the frequency of DCC's tuition:

(a) DCC stated that when he was in Primary School (from 2013 to 2015), he had tuition at the Residence every day which would last up till dinnertime.[303] On school holidays, DCC stated that he would have "more tuition".[304] DCC also stated that, when he was in Secondary School (from 2016 to 2018), he had CCA twice every week and tuition at the Residence on the remaining three weekdays.[305] However, when cross-examining C, defence counsel stated that "my instructions are that there were days that there were tuition and there were days that there was no tuition".[306] Crucially, when this discrepancy was pointed out to DCC, he could not offer any explanation.[307]

(b) AGM stated that, from 2013 to 2018, DCC would have tuition "three times a week".[308]

168 Additionally, it was DCC's evidence that tuition usually started at 3.30pm on weekday afternoons and would last for 1.5 hours to 2 hours.[309] It was also DCC's evidence that "usually straight after tuition I will have dinner".[310] Chronologically, this would correspond with a dinnertime of either 5pm or

303 DCS at para 226(b); NE 14 October p 21 lines 2−25.

304 NE 14 October 2025 at p 78 lines 1−11.

305 NE 14 October 2025 at p 24 lines 16−25.

306 NE 8 May 2025 at p 51 lines 16−24.

307 NE 14 October 2025 at p 81 line 25 to p 82 line 24.

308 NE 17 October 2025 at p 6 line 21 to p 7 line 6.

309 NE 14 October 2025 at p 18 line 18 to p 21 line 18.

310 NE 14 October 2025 at p 21 line 17.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

5.30pm. However, the Defence's witnesses provided contradictory accounts as to what time dinner typically was:

(a) When cross-examining C, defence counsel stated that "[d]inner, my instructions are usually maybe 6'oclock onwards".[311]

(b) AMR had initially stated that dinnertime was 5.30pm.[312] Under cross-examination, prior instructions to defence counsel (that dinner was "maybe 6'oclock onwards") were brought to AMR's attention and, when asked if she agreed with this set of instructions, AMR responded with "Yes, I say maybe 6'oclock onwards".[313]

169 ABR, too, asserted that, from 2013 to 2018, DCC and C would never be alone together in the master bedroom in the afternoon.[314] His evidence was internally inconsistent. On ABR's own evidence, he had tuition from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at least four times a week,[315] and would remain in school till 6pm for CCA every Friday.[316] Yet ABR refused to concede that he would have no personal knowledge as to DCC's whereabouts when he had tuition.[317] Although ABR did agree, under cross-examination, that he would not have personal knowledge on the goings-on at the Residence while he was at CCA,[318] he was content to subsequently and repeatedly assert that "there was never an instance"

311 NE 8 May 2025 at p 50 lines 21–24.

312 NE 21 October 2025 at p 63 lines 7–9.

313 NE 21 October 2025 at p 64 line 18 to p 65 line 1.

314 NE 16 October 2025 at p 40 line 22 to p 41 line 1.

315 NE 16 October 2025 at p 47 lines 11–19.

316 NE 16 October 2025 at p 75 line 13 to p 76 line 20.

317 NE 16 October 2025 at p 47 line 20 to p 50 line 14.

318 NE 16 October 2025 at p 50 lines 15–20.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

where DCC and C would be alone in the master bedroom in the afternoon on weekdays.[319] In my view, ABR was not a reliable witness.

170 Taken together, I find that the conflicting accounts provided by the Defence's witnesses on the frequency of DCC's tuition and when dinnertime typically was (which goes towards the duration and timing of DCC's purported tuition, since DCC asserts that he had dinner immediately after tuition) cannot be said to contradict C's evidence. I also note that the Defence has not adduced any independent evidence to support the existence of such a rigorous tuition or CCA schedule.

171 DCC's cross-examination also reflected how untenable his assertion was. I reproduce a portion of DCC's testimony on how he would spend time at the Residence if he did not have lunch at VivoCity, which starts with how rare such occasions were, followed by how long he took with his lunch, and ends with a rather surprising allusion to rushing his homework in the toilet:[320]

> Q: Lunch at home. Yes, lunch at home. So are there days where you had tuition but you did not go to VivoCity and you did not have lunch outside? You had lunch at home?
>
> A: So for that one, *firstly, it is very rare* because almost all the time we go to VivoCity, and why I say that there would not be pockets of time is because if I had lunch at home, *I would eat for a really long time and then after lunch, I still need to shower which I usually take like 30 minutes to shower, and then after that before tuition, I need to rush my tuition work* so that there wouldn't be time for me to do any -- there would not be pockets of time.
>
> Q: Okay, you said that you need to rush your tuition work, correct? Where would you be rushing your tuition work?

---

319 NE 16 October 2025 at p 72 lines 1–7.

320 NE 15 October 2025 at p 34 line 23 to p 35 line 21.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

A: The common toilet, level 3.

Q: No, my question, [DCC], is you said that you need to rush your tuition work, correct? "Before tuition I need to rush my tuition work".

A: Yes.

Q: Where did you do --

A: *At the toilet.*

Q: You did your tuition work inside the toilet?

A: *Inside the toilet.*

[emphasis added]

172 Further, DCC's evidence that he would never be alone with C was contradicted by other Defence witnesses. AMR accepted that there were days when she would first drop off C and DCC at home together before she fetched ABR.[321] I have dealt with ABR's and AGM's evidence at [169] and at [167(b)] respectively.

(2) Presence of others at the residence

173 I similarly disbelieve the Defence's assertion that other persons in the Residence would be on the third floor, with the effect of depriving DCC of the opportunity to sexually assault C.

174 At face value, ABR's testimony provided the most support to the Defence's assertion on this point. Indeed, ABR testified that he would be on the third floor on weekday afternoons,[322] studying at the L-shaped table.[323] To that end, ABR agreed that he would be able to know who would be on the third

---

321 NE 21 October 2025 at p 56 lines 6–16.

322 NE 16 October 2025 at p 24 lines 11–18.

323 NE 16 October 2025 at p 4 lines 17–24.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

floor.[324] Despite this, ABR testified that he was "not too sure" where C would study both before and after the First Family Meeting.[325] For reference, it was DCC's evidence that C would study on the third floor before the First Family Meeting.[326] Thus, ABR's assertion that ABR was "always upstairs studying" is internally inconsistent and cannot be relevant to an analysis of C's evidence.[327]

175 The Defence also pointed to the testimony of AMR and AGM. In essence, AMR testified that, though she was usually pre-occupied with preparing dinner in the kitchen on weekday afternoons, she would occasionally go to the third floor to rest or check if her children were doing their homework.[328] C was confined to the second floor for work and, if C went upstairs, it was with her.[329] AGM, on her part, said that on weekday afternoons, she would usually be on the second floor taking care of CYT and CYR,[330] though "sometimes [she] [would] go up to water [her] plants".[331] This point about AGM watering plants was not put to C. It was also clear from the evidence that AMR was often out of the house or cooking in the kitchen. No specific occasion of AMR going upstairs with C or AGM meeting C upstairs was put to C. There is therefore no merit in the assertion that at all times, there were others on the third level such that DCC would not have had an opportunity to assault C.

---

324 NE 16 October 2025 at p 60 lines 23−25; DCS at para 228.

325 NE 16 October 2025 at p 59 line 8 to p 60 line 4.

326 NE 14 October 2025 at p 74 lines 7−15.

327 NE 16 October 2025 at p 24 lines 15−16.

328 NE 21 October 2025 at p 76 line 12 to p 77 line 24.

329 NE 21 October 2025 at p 35 lines 1–22.

330 NE 17 October 2025 at p 12 line 4 to p 13 line 12.

331 NE 17 October 2025 at p 5 lines 7−22.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Additional implausibility arguments

176 Aside from the implausibility arguments raised by the Defence in its closing submissions, DCC raised other additional implausibility arguments while on the stand.

177 First, he attempted to distance himself from C, saying in his examination-in-chief that his relationship with C "wasn't very good".[332] Similarly, under cross-examination, DCC stated that he did not consider himself close to C when growing up,[333] and denied that he had ever played with C when there were no adults present.[334] This was contradicted by his VRI Statement recorded by the police, where he describes how "[they] were very close":[335]

> So we were very close, closely. Physically very close because we played a lot of stuff together 'la', like all the card games, beyblade, phone game, watch TV, all that together.

178 DCC gave similar evidence when he was asked, in his VRI Statement, to recount the last time he met C:[336]

> 'Oh' we were actually…'ya' the thing I said, we're close, right? That's why I was shocked cause we were totally fine. She play her game, I play my game, and we are teammates. We help each other. […]

179 DCC's assertion on the stand that he was not close to C at the material time was also contradicted by:

---

332 NE 14 October 2025 at p 7 lines 11–17.

333 NE 14 October 2025 at p 65 lines 9–17.

334 NE 14 October 2025 at p 66 lines 5–14.

335 Exhibit P88T at p 26.

336 Exhibit P88T at pp 41–42.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

(a) ABR's evidence that, before 2013, the cousins "share[d] a very close bond because after school they would usually come over",[337] that relations were "as equally close for me and my cousins and well as [DCC] and the cousins as well",[338] and that it was "quite upsetting to see" that "[C's family] didn't really come over any more";[339]

(b) AMR's police statement, in which she stated that DCC and C were quite close with each other,[340] and her statement in court that C and DCC did "play together";[341] and

(c) AGM's evidence in court that C and DCC "played together when they were young".[342]

180 A final implausibility contention was that DCC was too small to have carried or lifted C.[343] DCC was four years older than C. From the photographs, it is clear that he was of a height and size consonant with his age – a stocky, healthy boy – and she was of a height and size consonant with hers. On the evidence before the court, there is no basis for such an allegation.

181 Arising out of the conclusions I make in response to DCC's assertions, I hold that DCC is not a credible witness.

---

337 NE 16 October 2025 at p 2 line 24 to p 3 line 5.

338 NE 16 October 2025 at p 3 lines 6−12.

339 NE 16 October 2025 at p 22 lines 10−17.

340 Exhibit P90 (Statement Recorded from AMR on 4 January 2021) at A9.

341 NE 21 October 2025 at p 4 line 18 to p 5 line 1.

342 NE 17 October 2025 at p 18 line 6.

343 NE 14 October 2025 at p 32 lines 11−22.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

Are there any Lucas lies?

182 Regarding DCC's assertions, the Prosecution submits that three in particular are corroborative of guilt (referred to in the case law and therefore this judgment as "*Lucas* lies"), namely:

(a) That he did not have a close relationship with C from 2013 to 2018;[344]

(b) That he had no opportunity to be alone with C from 2013 to 2018 on weekday afternoons;[345] and

(c) That he had not been alone with C in the master bedroom from 2013 to 2018 on weekday afternoons.[346]

183 In *Public Prosecutor v Ilechukwu Uchechukwu Chukwudi* [2015] SGCA 33 ("*Ilechukwu*") at [60], the Court of Appeal explained that *Lucas* lies have four requirements: (a) the lie told out of court was deliberate; (b) it related to a material issue; (c) the motive for the lie was a realisation of guilt and a fear of the truth; and (d) the statement was clearly shown to be a lie by independent evidence.

184 I do not accept the Prosecution's submission on the *Lucas* lies as there is no independent evidence regarding the lies. I note that, while CCA schedules for 2016−2018 would have been helpful, all three assertions were raised by the Defence at trial in 2025. Notwithstanding that I disagree that there are any *Lucas*

---

344 PCS at para 80.

345 PCS at para 86.

346 PCS at para 91.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

lies, this does not detract from my conclusion at [181] that DCC is not a creditworthy witness.

Credibility of AMR

185 AMR was key to the Defence's case. I therefore deal briefly with her credibility.

186 I find AMR's credibility as a witness impeached. At trial, the Prosecution had identified material inconsistencies between the account AMR had provided in her statement to the police dated 4 January 2021 ("AMR's Police Statement"),[347] and the account she provided in court. AMR could not proffer a satisfactory explanation for any of the following inconsistencies.

(a) AMR provided two different accounts of what occurred at the First Family Meeting. In AMR's Police Statement, she stated that, during the First Family Meeting, DCC explained that C, CYR, and himself were watching TV in the master bedroom when he smacked her on the leg as he found her irritating. In court, she said DCC did not tell her what transpired. When cross-examined on her police statement, AMR merely stated "I can't explain that",[348] followed by "I cannot remember".[349]

(b) AMR provided two different accounts on C's complaint to her prior to the Second Family Meeting. In AMR's Police Statement, she stated that C told her that DCC locked the master bedroom door and

347 Exhibit P90 (Investigation Statement recorded from AMR on 4 January 2021).

348 NE 22 October 2025 at p 6 line 5.

349 NE 22 October 2025 at p 11 line 22.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

hugged her inside and, in response, AMR asked C if she had struggled or screamed when DCC did that. However, in court, AMR stated that C did not tell her where this incident occurred and did not tell her that DCC locked the door and hugged her inside the master bedroom.[350] AMR later stated that C did say that DCC locked the door,[351] though AMR maintained that C did not say this was in the master bedroom.[352] When asked for an explanation, AMR stated "I actually cannot remember".[353]

(c) AMR provided differing evidence on whether the children in the Residence would be in the master bedroom unaccompanied. In AMR's Police Statement, she stated that there was an incident in which a domestic helper told her that the children, including C, were in the master bedroom watching TV. However, in court, AMR stated that, whenever C was on the third floor, C would always be accompanied by her.[354] When asked for an explanation, AMR stated that "if they could be able to watch TV together it is very, very rarely to have this time […] so they might have that 5 minutes watching TV at that one incident".[355] This was unsatisfactory, as it does not explain why AMR took such a categorical position while on the stand, even if it was, on her own evidence, a rare occurrence.

---

350 NE 21 October 2025 at p 107 lines 3−15.

351 NE 21 October 2025 at p 112 line 17.

352 NE 21 October 2025 at p 112 lines 5−24.

353 NE 22 October 2025 at p 14 lines 2−7.

354 NE 21 October 2025 at p 35 lines 12−22.

355 NE 22 October 2025 at p 21 lines 4−8.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

(d) AMR's multiple versions on the status of the locking mechanism in her master bedroom are discussed above at [162]-[163].

The Defence's evidence on the two family meetings

187 Finally, it is pertinent to draw together the threads of the Defence evidence on the two family meetings, as these were C's first reports of anything untoward. Both DCC and AMR testified that C did not cry[356] or gesticulate[357] during both Family Meetings, while it was CMR's and CFR's evidence that C had cried and gesticulated towards her body at both Family Meetings. C herself had no recall of the content of the meetings.

188 AMR's evidence is dealt with at [186(a)]-[186(b)]. DCC provided two different accounts of how the First Family Meeting came to be. In his evidence-in-chief, DCC stated that the First Family Meeting was convened as a result of C accusing him of inappropriately touching her, and his subsequent denial of the same.[358] He said that the thigh incident (alluded to above at [134]) was not related to either of the family meetings.[359] However, in the course of defence counsel's cross-examination of C, it was stated that "[DCC] recalls that this first family meeting … was because of this particular incident", where he had hit C's outer thigh because she was disturbing him while he was watching YouTube.[360]

---

356 NE 14 October 2025 at p 109 line 23 to p 110 line 11; NE 14 October 2025 at p 111 lines 14−16; NE 21 October 2025 at p 27 lines 9−24; NE 21 October 2025 at p 115 lines 4−7.

357 NE 14 October 2025 at p 110 lines 14−25; NE 14 October 2025 at p 111 lines 17−19; NE 21 October 2025 at p 98 lines 6−11; NE 21 October 2025 at p 115 lines 4−7.

358 NE 14 October 2025 at p 96 line 13 to p 98 line 21.

359 NE 14 October 2025 at p 27 lines 14-15.

360 NE 14 October 2025 at p 105 line 14 to p 106 line 2.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

When he was cross-examined on this inconsistency, DCC did not explain why but instead simply disagreed that there was even such an inconsistency.[361]

189 For the Second Family Meeting, DCC could not remember anything C said or did. He said he stormed out of the room after offering to jump down a building because he felt CFR had not given him any opportunity to speak. In his oral testimony, DCC stated that he could not remember AGM saying anything at the Second Family Meeting, save for her shouting at him to go to her room.[362] However, in his VRI Statement, DCC stated that, after being called into her room, AGM proceeded to "talk [to] and reprimand" him and C.[363] In his VRI Statement, DCC also stated that AGM said "don't so close la. If all these things is [*sic*] going to happen and she's going to say that, then might as well just don't, don't be so close".[364] When this inconsistency was brought to DCC's attention, DCC could not explain.

190 AGM's evidence did not assist. Although the Second Family Meeting took place in her room, when asked about the meetings, AGM responded that she could not remember as it "happened a long time ago".[365] AGM subsequently stated that she also did not know what had led to the Family Meetings.[366] Despite her asserted ignorance, AGM was able to categorically deny the veracity of C's evidence on the Second Family Meeting.[367] She confirmed that she told C that

---

361 NE 14 October 2025 at p 108 lines 15–20.

362 NE 15 October 2025 at p 17 lines 1–21.

363 NE 15 October 2025 at p 21 lines 3–9.

364 NE 15 October 2025 at p 22 lines 21–24.

365 NE 17 October 2025 at p 6 lines 14–20.

366 NE 17 October 2025 at p 14 lines 5–10.

367 NE 17 October 2025 at p 15 lines 16–23.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

she was lying at the Second Family Meeting (as recounted above at [126]–[128]).[368]

191 Arising from the unreliable and differing positions, I accorded no weight to any of the Defence witnesses' versions of the family meetings, save for the undisputed assertion that DCC offered to commit suicide at the second meeting. In my view, it is not material to draw detailed conclusions as to what in fact happened at the two meetings, in the light of my earlier findings on C's consistency. It is not disputed that the two meetings arose from C's complaint of a sort that fell short of a report sufficiently specific to amount to corroboration.

Summation on the Defence's evidence

192 I hold that the evidence of the Defence's witnesses does not raise any reasonable doubt on the totality of the Prosecution's case.

Conclusion

193 In conclusion, C's evidence on charges A2 and A3 is unusually convincing. DCC's evidence is not credible.

194 In *GCK* at [91]–[92], the Court of Appeal observed:

> 91 In a sense, the "unusually convincing" standard is not a "test" at all, but rather, a *heuristic tool*. It is a cautionary reminder to the court of the high threshold that the Prosecution must meet in order to secure a conviction, and of the anxious scrutiny that is required because of the severe consequences that will follow from a conviction. That scrutiny is directed towards the sufficiency of a witness's testimony, which is inextricably linked to the ultimate inquiry of whether the case

368 NE 17 October 2025 at p 15 line 24 to p 16 line 4.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)

> against the accused person has been proved by the Prosecution beyond a reasonable doubt: see *Mohammed Liton* at [39].
>
> 92 … because the "unusually convincing" standard is directed towards whether the Prosecution has satisfied its onerous burden of proof, it applies as a cautionary reminder at the last stage of the evaluation of the evidence and just before a conviction is found. The "unusually convincing" standard is not meant to impose a mandatory warning from the judge to himself or herself: see *Mohammed Liton* ([32] *supra*) at [39]. Rather, its aim is to ensure that the trial judge has an awareness of the dangers of convicting the accused person on uncorroborated evidence, and that he or she (as well as an appellate court) undertakes a rigorous and *holistic* assessment of the evidence.
>
> [emphasis in original]

195 Bearing these principles in mind, I acquit DCC on A1. I find him guilty and convict him accordingly on A2 and A3.

Valerie Thean
Judge of the High Court

Anandan Bala, Daphne Lim, Benedict Chan and Joel Fun for the Prosecution;
Wong Hin Pkin Wendell, Andrew Chua Ruiming and Ng Jun De Andrew for the accused.

Version No 1: 15 Jan 2026 (17:14 hrs)