

**NMC03 (RT) 19.5.89**

INTERVIEWER: First of all, can you tell me what you are doing on the course and why you decided to take the course?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I decided to take the course because I'm going in the police eventually, but I can't go in until I'm twenty one so they advised me to have experience working with people, so, plus I haven't got enough 'O' levels to go in so I needed working with the community plus the 'O' levels, and this was the ideal course.

INTERVIEWER: So have you always wanted to do that, has that been your long term ambition?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, since I was about ten.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that was?

INTERVIEWEE: Because my grandad used to be one and he used to come home in his hat and ever since then I have just seen myself as one.

INTERVIEWER: It is quite an unusual thing for a woman to want to do, isn't it - do people see it as strange that you want to be in the police?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, like everybody I know they all keep telling me 'oh you are too nice to go in the police', but I think everybody has the wrong impression of the police. They all think they are crooks.

INTERVIEWER: And how do you feel about it, what do you think it's going to be like?

INTERVIEWEE: Well there is obviously going to be some bad there because there is bad everywhere, but I am quite looking forward to it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you will be able to help people by being in the police, do you see it in that way?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. That's the job really, helping the public.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's got excitement in it, being in the police?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Because I don't fancy waking up in the morning and thinking 'I'm doing that today, I am going to be doing this today.'

INTERVIEWER: Typing or something?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Whereas in the police you can wake up and you don't know what you are going to be doing like in ten minutes.

INTERVIEWER: And it could be really dangerous?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. I like excitement.

INTERVIEWER: That appeals to you then, danger and taking risks?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting. I suppose if you are going into the police it's a career for life, isn't it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So what do your mum and dad think about it, do they like the idea?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they are quite chuffed, actually. Because my mum is one of these that she seems to think that we get more opportunities nowadays, like, she would have wanted to go into the police but she didn't have the opportunity, like women were supposed to be secretaries so she is, like, living her life through me.

INTERVIEWER: What do you feel about that, is it like a pressure on you?

INTERVIEWEE: No because she's not pressurising me, but she is a [STORE DETECTIVE], so she has the excitement as well. They are quite pleased.

INTERVIEWER: Do you see yourself as breaking down the traditional roles of what women are supposed to be doing, going into the police, do you see it in that way, have you ever thought of it in that way?

INTERVIEWEE: No because I don't think it's breaking roles this era now. It would have been twenty years ago but not now, I don't think.

INTERVIEWER: I have never met any women who are going into the police before so it must be quite rare. First of all, can you tell me which school you went to?

INTERVIEWEE: [NAME OF SCHOOL].

INTERVIEWER: Is that an all girls' school?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's a mixed.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember what sort of sex education you got when you were at school?

INTERVIEWEE: None at all.

INTERVIEWER: None whatsoever?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have nothing in biology?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Biology was all like plants and cells but nothing to do with sex.

INTERVIEWER: And they didn't give you any advice on contraception?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: That's pretty bad isn't it. Did people at school talk about it, even if it wasn't in the class?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, in the playground.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think people were quite well informed anyway?

INTERVIEWEE: Well they were a lot more informed than I was. I don't know where they got it from at all. But that's where I have picked up most of it.

INTERVIEWER: Most of what you know comes from playgrounds?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What about your mum and dad, did they ever give you much advice or talking to?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they sat me and my brother down and went through everything, the birds and the bees and they just keep adding bits on as you get older.

INTERVIEWER: I see. So, what did they start out with?

INTERVIEWEE: At the very beginning. Just, like, how conception takes place.

INTERVIEWER: Did they explain it in terms of eggs and sperm, or did they explain it in terms of men and women?

INTERVIEWEE: Men and women, just basic terms.

INTERVIEWER: Were you shocked by this?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Not so much shocked by that, but shocked that mother comes out with that sort of language.

INTERVIEWER: What was the next stage when they started talking to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Well the next stage was when you started going out with boys.

INTERVIEWER: Which was what sort of age?

INTERVIEWEE: I was only about sixteen.

INTERVIEWER: So how old are you now?

INTERVIEWEE: Eighteen. And now they have started on the pill.

INTERVIEWER: So what did they tell you when you were sixteen?

INTERVIEWEE: Just basically that lads when they want to go out with you want to sleep with you, but when they get married, they want to marry a virgin. So you have the will power to say no, when they are going out with you they will respect you.

INTERVIEWER: So it was a sort of conscious moral thing rather than, they didn't tell you anything more information about what else happens, told you what oral sex was or anything like.

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: What did you think about that, did you agree?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You thought it was good advice?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. Well I didn't at the time.

INTERVIEWER: What did you think at the time?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know really. I thought they were making it up.

INTERVIEWER: So you didn't think boys were like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: And what did you find out then, did you find out that boys were like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that they are only after one thing. Well some of them are, not all of them.

INTERVIEWER: Did you find that when you started going out with boys then, that you were being pressured into having sex?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So what did you feel about that? Is that disappointing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because you get to really like them and then you find out they are after one thing. But it's better to find out before than to sleep with them and then for them to dump you.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So if a boy is very keen on having sex with you, do you think in a way that that shows that he's not really interested in you as a person?

INTERVIEWEE: If he is pressurising you, yes.

INTERVIEWER: So he really doesn't care about you as a person very much. So I am interested in what you feel about virginity, the idea of virginity. To start with, when you were at school there is usually a way that it is supposed to be. I remember when I was at school it was not on to be a virgin, if you were a virgin you pretended you weren't, or you tried to lose it as quick as possible, and I know from other people who have gone to different schools or a different age than I am it was very different. It was seen to be very good to be a virgin and girls were expected to be virgins. I mean, what was it like when you were at school?

INTERVIEWEE: It was more like groups. You had the main group who thought they were the cocks of the school, I'm presuming that they all slept around and they thought it was good to sleep around, but people I hung around with weren't like that.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think there was a difference between the two groups? Was it seen as a way of being grown up for instance?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, they thought it was.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think they were just confused about it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So the group that you were in, all the girls hadn't slept with anybody so you weren't pressurised into it or anything?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So tell me the next stage of your parents talking to you? When did you get the next talking to about things?

INTERVIEWEE: The next was just recently.

INTERVIEWER: And what did they tell you?

INTERVIEWEE: The next was when it came onto the pill, about contraception.

INTERVIEWER: So they told you that the pill existed?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and how you use it, the side effects and what other contraception there is.

INTERVIEWER: Did you think they had told you that expecting that you actually had slept with somebody already?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Because we are dead open with my mum and dad. If I go out with somebody, well they presume that when I do eventually want to sleep with somebody, I will tell them.

INTERVIEWER: You will tell them first?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but I think they just told me more because I was old enough rather than the relationship was ready.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that they would not like you to sleep with somebody before you were married?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I don't really think they would mind, as long as they were sure that I was sure that it was the right relationship.

INTERVIEWER: And what do you think the right relationship is?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, I think they would like me to know them for about a year and I really feel safe with them and they are not going to dump me if I do sleep with them, but I don't think they would mind if it was before marriage.

INTERVIEWER: So you don't feel you have to be engaged or anything like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: When would you think it is right for you?

INTERVIEWEE: Me, personally, when I am married.

INTERVIEWER: You would rather wait until you are married?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: Because there is always a risk, I don't think until you have lived with somebody you really know them and there is always the risk when you have slept with them, they dump you.

INTERVIEWER: If you went out with somebody for say a year or two and you were having a sexual relationship and you were going out with them and it came to an end, it might not necessarily mean them dumping you, but it came to an end, do you think that that's bad for you to have slept with somebody and to not be permanently with them. Do you think that is unfair on you?

INTERVIEWEE: On me personally – yes.

INTERVIEWER: Right. What makes you feel like that? It must be quite a lot to do with what your view about sex is? Is it something that makes you nervous, a bit scary?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well I think the thought of sleeping with somebody. Personally, I don't think I am mentally ready for that, and it's just all the worries like if you do get pregnant, and the main worry is does it hurt.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever been brought up with the idea that you should enjoy sex, that you should get stimulation out of it and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you would expect to enjoy it personally?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: But the other side of it is that you were not quite sure whether you would?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: It's a bit frightening. I think it's quite justified to feel all those things. It's a big step and quite a scary thing to do. For instance, the idea of being naked with somebody. Does that make you nervous?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but I think that's just me at the moment, but I think when I do get perhaps married or even into a steady relationship my views may change and I might not be terrified and I might be prepared to sleep with somebody before marriage. It's just my views at the moment because I'm not ready.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think being ready is about. I talked to HEATHER about this before and it's quite interesting. You hear quite a lot of girls saying 'well I don't feel ready yet, I'm not happy to do it yet until I'm ready'. What do you think being ready is?

INTERVIEWEE: Making sure you are in love and you've got to feel you can trust them and feel relaxed with them?

INTERVIEWER: Do you also think it's about you being confident in yourself, being comfortable about your body and all those types of things?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I know that I suppose for me, my growing up and thinking back having sex and things, most of it was about me being not confident about my body more than actually thinking about, I don't think I thought about the boys at all, I didn't like my body to be doing it. That was what I felt, but it's different for different people and for different reasons. Do you think, because you said you didn't get much information at school, or none, but you got something from you mum and dad but not an awful lot from it, they didn't tell you much about sex itself, what you do and what it might be like and what you might feel, do you think you have got enough information, would you have liked to have known more? Would you have liked to have been told more?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because I have learnt most of it from HEATHER because we sit down and have a girls chat and discuss how we feel and when we are going to be ready to and I have learnt most of it from HEATHER and I think I would have preferred how it was, to learn more from HEATHER than my mum and dad, because I am a bit embarrassed.

INTERVIEWER: To actually ask them?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How about at school, do you think it would have been good at school if you had had a chance where you wouldn't necessarily have asked directly, if it's been in a class people talked about things, people ask questions like someone might ask about masturbation or someone might ask about oral sex, so you don't have to ask directly,

but if a conversation gets going and a teacher might tell people about it, whether it's right or whether it's wrong or whether it's normal. What's normal and what's not normal, all those types of things which I think we all want to know about sex. Would you have liked that sort of information?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did they tell you anything at all at school about AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: They didn't. Had AIDS been heard about at all when you were at school?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it was just as I was leaving there was the odd cases of it.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember what your reaction was when you first heard about it, when it first came out, because a lot of it was very extreme stuff in the press, quite confused, things about just the gay men that got it. Can you remember what your reaction was when you first heard about it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well my reaction was more like serves them right because they were gay.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that it is wrong really?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I did then, but I don't anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that's changed?

INTERVIEWEE: Well we've talked on this course more about homosexuality and all the things like that, but all I knew at school was that two men slept together and to me that wasn't normal, so I thought serves them right.

INTERVIEWER: Was that quite important on this course that you have had these sorts of discussions?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So what else have they talked about on this course apart from homosexuality, things like that, what other topics have they covered?

INTERVIEWEE: Well they have covered sex and masturbation and everything.

INTERVIEWER: So you have had, you may not have got it at school, but you have had quite a good sex education here.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What did they say about masturbation, how did they present that?

INTERVIEWEE: That it was more to explore your own body, to make you feel confident with your own body, and it was normal.

INTERVIEWER: Right, was that something that you hadn't realised before?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well, I was at the stage where I didn't know what masturbation was until I came here.

INTERVIEWER: It was quite an eye opener?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that they actually said those sort of things.

INTERVIEWER: Was it presented as something that women do as well as men do?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Had that been something you realised?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I didn't really know that men did it and I definitely didn't know that women did it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that was good being told those things, that was helpful?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Also talking about sex, how did they present sex, did they talk about it in terms of relationships?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it was more clinical. The journey of the sperm and ovulation and things like that.

INTERVIEWER: When they were talking about it at college it was done in a quite a clinical way as well?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So they didn't talk about it in the same way they talked about masturbation, trying to tell you why people have sex, what positive things it does to people?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So they also talked about AIDS in the PSCE at college?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember what they said about?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I can't.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel you know very much about AIDS, the sort of information you are going to need?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I don't know much about AIDS.

INTERVIEWER: For instance, would you know what HIV was and what it meant?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Would you think it had something to do with AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I know it has something to do with AIDS.

INTERVIEWER: But you are not quite sure what it is. Do you know for instance where the virus would be in your body, what the infectious bits are?

INTERVIEWEE: All I know is that it kills all your immune system off, so it ends up that a cold could kill you.

INTERVIEWER: Right. So you are not quite sure how, if somebody has got AIDS or somebody is HIV positive you don't know what would be infectious about them? For instance, if you shook hands with them would you know whether that was risky?

INTERVIEWEE: I know it's got to be through either blood or saliva, not by shaking hands.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know it's transmitted sexually?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know whereabouts the virus is?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: OK, for a man the virus would be in the man's sperm and for a woman it will be in your vaginal fluids, everyone has fluids and it's in the fluids. I can't really explain what vaginal fluid is, because there aren't many words for things like that, but that is actually where it lies within your body so that is what infects, it's quite important to know what the infectious parts are so you can know how not to become infected. So tell me in what ways you can protect yourself from it, and how to stop yourself catching it?

INTERVIEWEE: All I know is not to sleep with anybody.

INTERVIEWER: So that's how you would see the main way?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Has AIDS affected how you think about people, has it made you more nervous about having sex with someone?

INTERVIEWEE: Only in the way that before I actually do sleep with somebody, because like I wasn't intending to sleep with anyone until I get married so we just both go and have a test.

INTERVIEWER: Before you got married and you would do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You said that you were brought up with the idea that you should enjoy sex and it's a good thing to do within marriage or whatever, it's good and you should enjoy it. Have you ever thought for instance that you might be worried that the person you might marry is going to be your one sexual partner and you might not enjoy sex with him, you might not be compatible sexually?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I have never thought about that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you see it as being important that you enjoy it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So it's not something for the man, it's important for you. Do you know it's possible for people to be not sexually compatible?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You hadn't thought about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I hadn't thought about it affecting me.

INTERVIEWER: Right, I just thought I had better warn you. So you are not expecting then to be experimenting with sex, so you don't feel worried that you are going to be at risk from catching AIDS?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of people would you say were at risk from it?

INTERVIEWEE: Promiscuous people like prostitutes.

INTERVIEWER: What would you call promiscuous?

INTERVIEWEE: Somebody who has one-night stands and sleeps with them, some people term them, say you've got two babies from two different fathers, would term them promiscuous but I wouldn't because they could have really liked that man and the relationship just fell apart.

INTERVIEWER: Would you say it was to do with how that person felt about the man that they were with, that that was the important part?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, like, if you sleep with them after one day then I would call them promiscuous because you can't really feel anything for them.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know whether you can, there are actually any ways to protect yourself in terms of the sexual act apart from not being promiscuous, apart from waiting to have sex and things like that. Have you heard that using a condom can protect you?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I didn't know it did.

INTERVIEWER: So using a condom or avoiding having intercourse because in fact the only part of sex that is dangerous in terms of passing AIDS on is intercourse, is actually the stage of the man's semen going into a woman, so if you use condoms that's not dangerous, or if you don't do that part then it's not dangerous so in fact you can avoid the risks as well. So, you hadn't heard that using condoms could protect you?

INTERVIEWEE: No.



INTERVIEWER: How much of the media campaign around AIDS did you see, do you remember stuff on television and adverts and things like that, did you see very much of that?

INTERVIEWEE: Only the adverts. I didn't really see any newspapers or, I didn't watch the programmes on.

INTERVIEWER: Why was that, because they didn't want it on at home, were your parents not happy about you watching programmes like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I wasn't really interested.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think the adverts gave you very much information, do you think they made you well informed?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you thought they were quite good?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Which ones did you see? Can you remember any of them?

INTERVIEWEE: The one where the red dot follows everybody round when they share the needles, the one where they are walking away and she has got her fingers crossed behind her back. They are the only two I can remember.

INTERVIEWER: So you thought both of those were quite informative?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How you look at yourself in the future, you are not expecting to have a lot of relationships and you are not going to be worried about catching it, do you think you are going to be safe?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So what do you think you are going to be doing in terms of relationships, are you planning on having kids, you say you want to get married, when are you planning to get married and things like that? I would be interested how you thought about it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, I do eventually want kids, but not for say another six or seven years, but I think actually there are thoughts dwelling over my head about just living with people, like living with a man before you actually get married.

INTERVIEWER: And what do you think about that, is that tempting?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I had never thought of it at first but my brother has just moved in with his girlfriend.

INTERVIEWER: And they are not married?

INTERVIEWEE: They are not married, so that was last March, so that thought.

INTERVIEWER: What did your parents think about that?

INTERVIEWEE: Well they didn't seem to be too bothered, but I don't know whether it would be the same for me, with me being a girl.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it is different for girls than boys?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it should be different?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: But it still remains. Do you think it's quite possible that you would do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I probably would.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel quite daring doing that? Do you think it is a bit daring to do it, because you were saying you had always thought of getting married before you had sex with someone?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it is quite sensible in a way really, because, I don't know, in one way it's not because if there are any problems with the relationship you can just get out, people don't bother working at it, but in another way it saves all the hassle of divorce and everything. And I think you can work at a relationship better if you have not got the pressure of marriage, if you are just living together.

INTERVIEWER: So your ideas are beginning then to change slightly?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but it's with the thought that eventually the person I do live with I will eventually marry.

INTERVIEWER: Does marriage mean a lot to you then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: In a religious sense does it mean anything to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: What does it mean to you?

INTERVIEWEE: I think security mainly. It's not the idea of family, because I want a husband, but I also want a career, it's just the thought of growing old together.

INTERVIEWER: Have you got a boyfriend at the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about him? How old he is, what he does?

INTERVIEWEE: He's twenty two.

INTERVIEWER: So he's a bit older than you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He works on an oil rig actually, so he is away for two weeks and then he's home for two weeks.

INTERVIEWER: And how did you meet him?

INTERVIEWEE: At a wedding when my cousin got married, he was the best friend of my youngest cousin.

INTERVIEWER: Was he your first boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So you have had other boyfriends in the past then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How many?

INTERVIEWEE: Only about three.

INTERVIEWER: Is he more serious than the others have been or is it similar?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he is more serious than the first two, but the last one is about the same at the moment.

INTERVIEWER: Are his views on sex the same as yours are, does he want to have sex now?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he doesn't.

INTERVIEWER: So that must make it easier. How about your last boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he didn't want to sleep around.

INTERVIEWER: But he didn't want to sleep with you either, I don't mean he didn't want sleep with you, he hadn't said to you that he wanted to have a sexual relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's quite common for boys to pressurise women into wanting to have sex?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because the second one I went out with was very pressurising, he just made me feel sick to be with him.

INTERVIEWER: Do you find that you have many strong sexual desires towards men, or do you think you don't really feel that way towards them in the way that they seem to feel?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes I do have, I don't know whether they are sexual desires, but you have minutes where you think, well just this moment in time I could sleep with them and then about two days later you feel back to normal again, I couldn't. And I'm glad I didn't.

INTERVIEWER: So the relationship you are having with your boyfriend at the moment, do you think that's going to be quite long term?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about it? How you get on, is it a good relationship, do you get on well?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because, I don't know. The first thing that hit me was like the day after the wedding there was about twelve of us all sat round to dinner and my uncle asked who wanted a drink and he was the first person to stand up and get all the drinks for everybody. So it just hit me like that he's a gentleman and he is one of these that opens the door for you and pulls your chair out for you. And he's fun to be with and he's just everything I have been looking for.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel a bit nervous in that he's that much older than you, in that he's more experienced and things like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because in some things he does, yes, I can feel the age difference, but when he's been fun, sometimes he's younger than me.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know if he has had a sexual relationship before?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Have you talked to him about that and he hasn't?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Does that make you feel happier about it, are you glad that he hasn't?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because then we can learn together then.

INTERVIEWER: And does that appeal to you much more than learning from someone?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because if they have slept with somebody before then I always feel they are going to be comparing.

INTERVIEWER: And do you find that insulting to be compared?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, like, in case they were better. It wouldn't matter if they were worse, but if they were better.

INTERVIEWER: Right, I know the feeling. You trust him, you have quite a close relationship and you trust him, and you know he is telling you the truth about these types of things?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I feel so, yes.

INTERVIEWER: How long have you been seeing him for now?

INTERVIEWEE: Nearly five months.

INTERVIEWER: And does he come from Manchester?

INTERVIEWEE: No, he originally comes from SCOTLAND. So he's a Scot but he lives down in Manchester.

INTERVIEWER: And goes off to the rigs and comes back down here. Does he live at home with his parents?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And are they quite close to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it's only about four miles.

INTERVIEWER: So you are hoping that this relationship is going to last?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How serious are you about it?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I don't love him at the moment, but it's getting that way.

INTERVIEWER: How do you think that you start loving somebody, what do you think love is?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I just feel as though I will know when I love him, like I can't bear to be without him and want to be with him every minute of the day.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that when you say loving somebody, that would make it right to sleep with somebody if you felt you know you loved him? Do you think that could be the difference?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because from what HEATHER says, she loves him, but she is still not ready to sleep with him yet, so I'm presuming the same that even though I love him I won't be ready to sleep with him.

INTERVIEWER: Is your and HEATHER's relationship quite important do you think for both of you, that both of you are seeing boys that you have been seeing for quite a long time but you haven't slept with them, do you think that with you two being good friends and being able to talk about it is positive for you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you would be under more pressure if you didn't have her as a friend, you might feel well maybe I should? For instance, if all your friends had slept with their boyfriends do you feel?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I don't think I would.

INTERVIEWER: That wouldn't make you feel pressured, your ideas are strong enough in themselves?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.