

Witness Name: The Rt Hon The Lord Goodlad KCMG PC

Statement No: 1

Date:

21st May 2018

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of The Rt Hon The Lord Goodlad KCMG PC

I, Alastair Robertson Goodlad, will say as follows:

1. I served in the House of Commons for 25 years. I was elected in February 1974 as Member for the Northwich Division of Cheshire, becoming Member for the Eddisbury Division following the 1983 boundary redistribution. I retired from the House of Commons in 1999. I was created a Life Peer in 2005.

In the House of Commons I was a Government Whip from 1981 to 1984, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy from 1984 to 1987, Government Whip and Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household from 1989 to 1990, Deputy Chief Whip and Treasurer of her Majesty's Household from 1990 to 1992, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1992 to 1995, Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury from 1995 to 1997, Opposition Chief Whip for some weeks after the 1997 General Election, and Shadow Secretary of State for International Development from 1997 to 1998

2. In the House of Commons I served inter alia on the Select Committee on Agriculture, the Services Committee, the Standards and Privileges Committee and the Select Committee on Televising the Proceedings of the House, and was Chairman of the All party Committee for Refugees. I also served on the Committee of the British Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union.

3. When in the Whips Office prior to becoming Deputy Chief Whip I served as North West Area Whip, and as Whip at the Departments of Energy, Social Security and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As Deputy Chief Whip I served as Chairman of the Joint Committee with the House of Lords responsible for the Security of the Palace of Westminster. As Chief Whip I attended Cabinet and was a member of several Cabinet Committees.
4. In the House of Lords I have served as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Constitution, Chairman of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, Chairman of the Leaders Group on the Procedures and Practices of the House of Lords, and am currently a member of the Select Committee on Communications and the Standing Orders (Private Bills) Committee.
5. I served as a Government whip initially when Lord Jopling was Chief Whip, and subsequently when Lord Wakeham, the late Lord Waddington, Lord Renton and Lord Ryder were Chief Whips. The way in which the Whips Office worked with other members of the Parliamentary Party did not in my recollection change during that period or during my own period of service as Chief Whip. It was essentially a collegiate body, sharing a collective political memory, representing different geographical areas and age groups, each member with defined responsibilities. There was a strong esprit de corps and pride in the office and its traditions.
6. I did not know the late Tim Fortescue, but knew the late Lord Pym, who was Chief Whip when Tim Fortescue was in the office, and indeed I sought Lord Pym's advice when I was appointed Chief Whip. I find Tim Fortescue's words inexplicable. I am quite sure that any evidence of child sexual molestation would have been reported to the Cabinet Secretary, and that Lord Pym would not have condoned using any personal concerns raised with Whips in their pastoral capacity to influence colleagues to vote in a particular way. Such behaviour would have been contrary to the ethos of the office, which included treating colleagues with respect and I should be amazed if it would have been tolerated by Lord Pym, any more than it would have been by me.
7. I do not recollect Whips seeking to obtain confidential details relating to other members of the party. Such behaviour would again have been alien to the practice of the office. Members shared confidential information with Whips when they wished to do so, whether on family, health, financial or political issues. Depending on the nature of the information, and the degree of confidentiality requested by the Member, it might result in discussion with the Member, consultation with the Chief Whip, and or other Whips, in either oral or written form. When any help or advice was requested it would be given wherever possible.

8. I am not aware of any cases in which party whips used their knowledge of confidential matters relating to a Member of Parliament to pressure them into voting in a particular way. Such action, as I have said above, would have been contrary to the ethos of the office. I would not have countenanced such action when I was Chief Whip.
9. During my period in the Whips' Office we did not in my recollection become aware of any allegations of criminal conduct or child sexual abuse against an MP.
10. The expression Black Book was never used in the Whips Office during my time in the Government Whips Office. Whips notes were used as a practical way of sharing pieces of information, usually, in my recollection, of a political rather than personal nature, on a day to day basis during my time in the Government Whips Office. They would be read by the Chief Whip after close of play and discussed if relevant at the following day's meeting. I do not know what the practice was under previous Chief Whips, but in my own time the notes, being of ephemeral use only, were disposed of by officials
11. I can shed no light on what, if anything, lay behind Lord Tebbit's comments.
12. I was Opposition Chief Whip for only a few weeks after the 1997 General Election, when the office operated much as before although our tasks were quite different from those in Government. I do not know how other parties' Whips Offices operated. Hearsay stories are sometimes related, but distinguishing fact from fiction is not really possible.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: _____ **DPA** _____

Dated: 31st May 2018