

WITNESS STATEMENT

- 1.1 I have been since 1957 a Chartered Account. I entered the House of Commons in 1974 and retired in 1992 when I was made a peer. I was a junior Whip from 1979 to 1981 when I served as a Junior Minister in The Department of Industry and The Treasury. I become Chief Whip in 1983 until 1987. I then become Leader of the House of Commons, Secretary of State for Energy and finally Leader of the House of Lords
- 1.2 During my time as Chief Whip I was badly injured in the bombing at Brighton and my wife was killed, and as a consequence was in hospital for quite some time. My principal task was to get the Government's business through the House of Commons. It was of course 39 years ago when I joined the Whips Office. I have no papers or records of that time.
- 1.3 I have absolutely no knowledge of the matters referred to by Mr Fortescue whom had left the House of Commons before my time and whom I did not know and frankly I don't believe him.
- 1.4 I have no knowledge of the matters Lord Tebbit refers to. He was never in the Whips Office and you will need to ask him for his evidence
- 1.5 In the course of their work Whips sometimes got information from MPs but it would be mainly about their views on the Government's business, sometimes about their own career prospects and sometimes about their money matters. It would not normally be recorded but if relevant it might be referred to at the whips meetings. If we could help them we did by mainly referring them to someone who might be able to help. For example arranging an interview with a senior minister who might be able to help them, or telling them of a colleague who had some specialised knowledge of say tax matters
- 1.6 The suggestion we would use such information to pressure an MP would be in my view a criminal offence and if I found, which I didn't, any example of this the whip would be dismissed forth with.

1.7 There was a practice for whips to note in a book which was never called by me or anyone in my time by the names you suggest, anything a whip thought might be helpful for the Chief Whip to know. The Chief Whip was given by in my case his Deputy these note to look at as he went home. I read them in bed. By the next day they were no longer of any use and I returned them to my office but I have no idea what then happened to them. No whip in my day would put a serious or criminal matter in the book. That would be reported to the chief or deputy verbally and at once. Most of the talk about these books was by journalists and MPs who had never seen one or been in the whips office.

1.8 During my time in the Whips Office I never heard anything or even a suggestion of Child Sex Abuse amongst MPs, let alone any evidence.

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

Signed

**DPA**

The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham DL

Dated

2/6/18