

Witness Name: Peter Edward  
Jones, COO, FCO  
Statement No.:  
Exhibits:2  
Dated:22 February 2019

## **THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

---

### **Further Supplementary Witness Statement of Peter Jones, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

#### **Children Outside the UK**

---

I, Peter Edward Jones, Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the FCO, gave evidence to the Inquiry on 14 February 2019. I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and do so in response to the Inquiry's requests for further information on Emergency Travel Documents and the use of International Child Protection Certificates<sup>1</sup> (IPCs).

As Chief Operating Officer of the FCO. I am responsible for ensuring and overseeing the effective day to day functioning of the FCO including Human Resources and personnel security and it was in that capacity I made my original witness statement. Information relating to Emergency Travel Documents is outside my area of responsibility and as such I have relied on information and documentation made available to me by my consular colleagues.

#### **ETDs (Emergency Travel Documents). The Inquiry asked:**

##### **Q. Whether any police checks would be carried out on application for an Emergency Travel Document**

Police checks are not carried out when an ETD is applied for. However there are mechanisms in place to ensure that subjects of interest to UK law enforcement are

<sup>1</sup> Question from Prof Sir Malcolm Evans



flagged when they apply for an ETD, in the form of mandatory checks completed as part of the ETD application process:

- i) a check of the Consular Assistance database CASEBOOK (and its predecessor COMPASS), to see if there are any wider issues regarding the applicant which consular staff have already been made aware of through giving assistance to, or which involved, the applicant seeking the ETD. These could include previous arrests, convictions or bail conditions;
- ii) a search of HM Passport Office's (HMPO) Data Validation Application (DVA) database. DVA allows authorised users in the FCO to view passport data held on HMPO's Application Management System. DVA includes a mechanism that allows UK law enforcement to flag persons of interest. If an individual is flagged by the system, an ETD cannot be issued before clearance is received from HMPO.

#### **Q. Whether "cause for concern" indicators can lead to the refusal of an ETD**

When consular staff encounter a customer they believe may be involved in crime, FCO Consular Guidance requires them to discuss this with their Line Manager and / or Consular Regional Overseas Manager (CROM). If, following that discussion, the suspicions are assessed to be reasonable, consular staff will pass basic information about the case to the UK law enforcement point of contact for their Post who will be nominated by the Deputy Head of Mission. They should also notify the embedded Metropolitan Police Service Officer in FCO Consular Directorate and the Consular Global Response Centre (GRC) in London. The GRC operates in shifts and can ensure that senior staff are alerted to an issue 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If the individual applies for an ETD, HMPO should also be consulted. If the individual is travelling with a child and there are welfare concerns – which there would be if someone exhibited one or more of the "cause for concern indicators" around child sexual exploitation (CSE) – FCO Consular Guidance requires Post to inform the Child Protection Unit in Consular Directorate.

In general it is unlikely that an individual meeting the "cause for concern indicators" would be refused an ETD unless FCO consular staff were aware that local law enforcement or judiciary had put restrictions on their ability to travel – e.g. as part of



bail conditions. This could be prompted by information sharing by UK law enforcement agencies alerted to the case by consular staff. It is more likely that the ETD might, at the request of UK Law Enforcement or HMPO on behalf of Border Force, be issued only for a one way trip to the UK on a specific flight on a specific date.

**Q. If so, on how many occasions cause for concerns and/or police checks have led to a refusal of an ETD**

All ETD refusals must be referred to the Document Policy team in London. We are not aware, on the basis of these referrals, of any case where ETDs have been refused on the basis of "cause for concern" indicators in the past two years, but the data is not retained in a searchable format. If the Document Policy team were to be made aware of a case, it would be referred to the Child Protection Unit and specialist advisers immediately. ETD refusals are always documented and consular officers looking at the record of a particular case would be able to see the reasons for refusal if this happened within the past eight years.

**Q. Whether an ETD can be for return to a non-UK country and if so how many such ETDs have been granted and to which countries**

An ETD allows a customer either to travel to the UK or to their normal place of residence. Return ETDs are usually issued only to those who are resident overseas with an urgent need for travel. If their normal place of residence is not the UK, the customer must provide evidence of their place of residence, for example a valid residence card, unless the customer is a British Citizen and their place of residence is within the European Economic Area, where they have freedom of movement. While data relating to the issuing of ETDs is collected, it is not retained in a searchable format on FCO systems. If the Inquiry judges that this information is essential to gain a better understanding of the situation then we could consider commissioning the software company that developed and runs the system for issuing ETDs to extract the data.

**International Child Protection Certificates**



**Q. Whether there is any requirement that, in order to be in receipt of FCO funding, International Child Protection Certificates need to be sought in relation to UK staff employed locally?**

The FCO does not specifically require organisations and projects to supply International Child Protection Certificates for their employees, volunteers or partner agencies working abroad. The FCO's revised due diligence guidance does include language on safeguarding children and adults at risk from sexual exploitation and abuse. The due diligence assessments carried out by FCO programme teams help them to judge the adequacy of the policies, processes and practices evidenced by a potential partner.

Exhibit PEJ A1: Supplier Personnel – Extract from Prosperity Fund Framework (PFF) call off contract terms and conditions

Exhibit PEJ A2: Code of Conduct Compliance Area 6: Safeguarding, social responsibility and human rights – Extract from Prosperity Fund Framework (PFF) call off contract terms and conditions

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ **DPA** \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 22 / 2 / 2019 \_\_\_\_\_



