

Witness Name: Michelle Skeer
Statement No.: 3
Exhibits: 0
Dated: 5th March 2019

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Chief Constable Michelle Skeer

I, Michelle Skeer, Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary, will say as follows:-

1. I make this statement further to the evidence I gave to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ("the Inquiry") on 14th February 2019.
2. I refer the Inquiry to my first statement, dated 21st January 2019 for details of my service with Cumbria Constabulary.
3. I have been asked to assist the Inquiry by providing further evidence in relation to four discrete areas and I shall address each in turn.

The current number of Sexual Risk Orders with Foreign Travel Prohibitions

4. I am advised that forty Forces have provided information, from which it has been established that there are currently six Sexual Risk Orders in existence which have a Foreign Travel Prohibition.

5. If further Forces provide information about Sexual Risk Orders with Foreign Travel Prohibitions I shall forward it to the Inquiry.

Number of Sexual Risk Orders Applied for but not granted.

6. I am advised that forty Forces have provided information, from which it has been established that a total of thirty one applications for Sexual Risk Orders were applied for but not granted.

7. If further Forces provide information about applications for Sexual Risk Orders that have been applied for, but not granted, I shall forward it to the Inquiry.

Number of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders applied for but not granted.

8. In order for me to provide the Inquiry with accurate data I asked Sergeant 1025 Cherry to explore the feasibility of obtaining accurate information as to how many Sexual Harm Prevention Orders have been applied for but not granted. I understand that this data cannot be accurately obtained from ViSOR due to the way in which the information is currently held and recorded. As I stated during my evidence to the Inquiry, ViSOR is a case management system used primarily by Police, National Probation Service and the Prison Service and is not a statistical retrieval tool.

9. I am not, therefore, able to accurately provide the Inquiry with the total number of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders which have been applied for but not granted. However, it is evident from the statistical data provided in the MAPPA Annual Report 2017/2018 and in my second statement to the Inquiry that the number of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders imposed by the courts each year is considerable and that the number of those which have been rejected will be significantly smaller.

10. I am able to advise the Inquiry that I have had initial discussions with the Home Office flagging with them the need for re-development of the ViSOR database.

Section 72 Sexual Offences Act 2003

11. During my evidence, I stated that I had requested a change to ViSOR so that we would be able to capture when Section 72 Sexual Offences Act 2003 was used to facilitate the prosecution of British Nationals or UK residents for substantive sexual offences when they are committed abroad. I can confirm that I have arranged for an interim measure to be implemented so that any use of the legislation will be captured and is now retrievable from ViSOR with a permanent amendment to the field matter in place towards the latter end of 2019

12 .During my evidence, I also gave an undertaking to include some information regarding Section 72 Sexual Offences Act 2003 in the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) which is accessed on line via the College of Policing website. A review of the appropriate sections of the APP is currently underway and this will be included as a part of the review which aims to be concluded towards the end of summer 2019.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: **DPA** _____

Dated: 5th MARCH 2019.