

Heidi Boutcher
Staff Officer to Assistant Commissioner Rowley
Specialist Operations
Room 1811
Tower Block
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

6 August 2014

Dear Miss Boutcher,

We spoke yesterday and, as you know, we are conducting a review of how the Home Office recorded and dealt with alleged organised child sexual abuse that we would appreciate Assistant Commissioner Rowley's assistance on.

A second strand of our review relates to whether the Home Office provided any funding to the Paedophile Information Exchange [PIE]. In considering that aspect of our review we need to make some enquiries about what role, if any, Special Branch had in investigating PIE in or around the mid/late 70s to early 80s.

Specifically, we want to know whether Special Branch would have wanted, or encouraged, any support, financial or otherwise, from the Home Office in order that any Special Branch investigations could continue into PIE.

In respect of a timeline of events which may help you in our request, PIE came more sharply into public focus in 1975 and a booklet on paedophilia was produced in collaboration with the Albany Trust in 1976. In 1978 arrests were made and prosecutions followed. Steven Smith, a former Chairman of PIE, fled to Holland and attempts were made to extradite him. It is reported that PIE closed down in 1984. It follows that the period with which we are concerned is 1975-1984 and we are particularly interested in 1977 to 1983.

I look forward to hearing from you and you can contact us directly or through Mike Box in our Secretariat in the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Whittam QC