



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Specialist Operations

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Your ref:

Our ref:

3rd October 2014

Dear Mr Whittam QC,

Your letter of 6th of August 2014 to Inspector Boutcher poses a number of questions concerning the role that Special Branch had, if any, in investigating the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) in or around the mid/late 1970's to early 1980's. Specifically you asked if 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.

I have caused enquiries to be made and I have outlined our response below, but it is worth emphasising that this letter is written from a Metropolitan Police Special Branch perspective only. During the relevant time period each Home Office maintained police force in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland normally had a unit called a Special Branch. These worked to and were tasked by each Chief Officer. There was no centralised command structure of Special Branches. The work of Special Branches has long been determined by the Home Office and national guidelines were first issued in 1984. Traditionally, and during the period you are interested in, Special Branches have been tasked on the following areas of policing - terrorism, extremism, organised threats to public order and, historically, subversion. Some Special Branches and the Metropolitan Police Special Branch (MPSB) in particular, were also responsible for some aspects of Ministerial armed protection.

The investigation of unlawful activity concerning the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) has not to the best of our knowledge ever been an area of policing to which MPSB has ever been directly tasked. A search of our records system at available to us has produced no information that suggests MPSB has had any role in investigating the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) or indeed any similar group.

In relation to your other specific enquiry, the search of the records available to us has produced no information that MPSB would have wanted or encouraged any support, financial or otherwise, from the Home Office in order that any MPSB investigations could continue into the Paedophile Information Exchange.

A search was carried out of our records within the Counter Terrorism Command (SO15), which was merged from MPSB (SO12) and the Anti-Terrorist Branch (SO13) in 2006, including the inherited databases from the former MPSB and the Anti-Terrorist Branch. The search parameters were of PIE, P.I.E. and Paedophile Information Exchange. This has produced two electronic mentions of persons connected to the Paedophile Information Exchange summarised as follows:

- (a) Steven Adrian Smith born [DPA]1954 was arrested by the Obscene Publications Squad (then part of the Metropolitan Police). A cross reference appears to have been made that SMITH had previously come to the attention of the then SO12 (MPSB) with regards to the Paedophile Information Exchange. The bulk file upon which this report was filed is reported to have been destroyed along with six thousand other files in 2004 as part of an authorised modernisation process.
- (b) [Other] reporting concerning a list of associates of a [Sensitive/Irrelevant] prisoner produces a list and identifies one person, who was born in the [Sensitive/Irrelevant] and was reported to have been a member of PIE and a group called [Sensitive/Irrelevant].

Both these records are classified as SECRET but can be made available for your viewing if required.

Although historical records are comprehensively indexed we do have a large number of historical bulk files, where the operational title and references contained therein give no information as to the contents. These files date back over 30 years and we have no electronic means of searching the contents. The only satisfactory means of establishing the contents is for each file to be reviewed from cover to cover, an action not possible within the time constraints of your enquiry. Should you wish to provide suitably vetted staff to review these files then do not hesitate to let me know.

For completeness a similar search has also been carried out of non Special branch records, namely CRIMINT (a corporate criminal intelligence database which is unlikely to have existed during the relevant time period) and the MPS's corporate archive, General Registry. CRIMINT revealed approximately 250 records relating to P.I.E. or the Paedophile Information Exchange. These date between 1994 and 2014. A search of General Registry reveals two file references which are recorded as in the possession of Operation Yewtree and another dated 1978, concerning a policy and prosecutions document containing details of a number of people linked to P.I.E. This file is in deep storage outside of the MPS.

Should you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Ball
Commander, Counter Terrorism Command