

Witness Name:  
Statement No.: 1  
Exhibits:  
Dated: 18<sup>TH</sup> February 2019

---

**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

---

**Witness Statement of RICHARD FEWKES**

---

I, Richard FEWKES , will say as follows:-

1. I am employed by Norfolk Constabulary as the National Coordinator for the Investigation of Non-recent Child Sexual Abuse (Operation Hydrant). I report directly to Chief Constable Simon BAILEY as part of his National Police Chief's Council responsibilities for Child Protection and Abuse Investigation.
2. As part of my role I am national policing's nominated single point of contact for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (the Inquiry). This involves coordinating requests for information and material that the Inquiry have of all police forces within England and Wales, and if appropriate relevant devolved authorities.
3. On the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, as part of a scoping exercise to enable the identification of relevant material, I was issued a Section 21 Notice by the Chair of the Inquiry which made the following request for information of the 43 police forces in England and Wales:
  - a. Confirmation of the number of investigations of alleged child sexual abuse and exploitation involving people of public prominence associated with Westminster. This includes both current and historic cases;
  - b. For each investigation, a brief description of the nature of the allegation and the investigation conducted (if any), including a brief description of (i) the steps taken in the investigation, (ii) the outcome of the investigation, and (iii) whether there is a closure report. For the avoidance of doubt we require information about all relevant allegations and intelligence, including where no formal investigation has taken place or the investigation was stopped at an early stage;
  - c. A brief narrative description of the documentation held in connection with each investigation. However, we do not at this stage require a detailed schedule of material held and status of investigations concerning persons of public prominence; a description will suffice.

4. In a subsequent variation to this notice, communicated on the 21 November 2017, as a consequence of the volume of material identified, separate arrangements were put in place for the Metropolitan Police Service who since then have dealt directly with the Inquiry
5. As a consequence of this Section 21 Notice a request was made to all police forces to identify relevant material and information that would meet the requirements of the notice and to provide Operation Hydrant with a summary of that material. This request specifically required that forces check with their Special Branch offices, where this was appropriate.
6. On the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 a Rule 9 Request was issued to me by the Inquiry Chair which requested police forces do the following:
  - a. Confirm whether or not searches carried out by the police forces in response to our previous request included searches of Regional Special Branch Units ;
  - b. If they have not already done, that Regional Special Branch Units conduct searches under the terms "PIE" and "Paedophile Information Exchange" with a focus on any documents, which may indicate that Special Branch may have investigated and/or funded PIE. Please provide us with a summary of the outcome of these searches and any documents found.
7. In relation to point (a) of this request, this issue had been confirmed with forces as part of earlier correspondence and the Inquiry were informed of this. All police forces (specifically their Special Branch offices) and where appropriate Regional Special Branch Units were asked to identify relevant material and information that would meet the requirements of point (b) and to provide Operation Hydrant with a summary of that material. The search should extend to physical as well as digitally held material.
8. Responses in relation to the original Sec 21 Notice and the subsequent Rule 9 Request were collated. All searches undertaken were reasonable and proportionate. Where appropriate, advice was sought where the initial trawl for information had produced many thousands of responses. (For example on some digital records the search for "PIE" would identify any record or document that contained that sequence of letters in any word; e.g. piece or occupied) On these occasions the initial parameters of the search were adjusted. The Inquiry were made aware of any adjustments made to the search parameters.
9. Responses have been received from every police force and where appropriate Regional Special Branch Unit and no material has been found relevant to the question of whether the Paedophile Information Exchange was investigated or funded by Special Branch in the 1970's or 1980's.
10. All police forces, with the exception of the Metropolitan Police, have informed me that they have completed their searches. The Metropolitan Police are dealing directly with the Inquiry and I am not sighted on any information they hold or otherwise.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**DPA**

**Dated: 18thFebruary 2019**