

29. In that meeting with Clifford Hindley, my opening comments were something like "Clifford, what the hell are we doing funding this outfit?". I expressed my disgust at PIE avowed aims; I remember pointing out that we were an interdepartmental unit with a responsibility to coordinate government policy on the voluntary sector. I said it was illogical to be helping organisations in conjunction with Department of Health to promote child protection, and at the same time to fund one which was campaigning to remove existing safeguards.
30. My recollection is that Clifford Hindley's response was, firstly, that PIE was a bona fide campaigning organisation even if its objectives appeared objectionable; secondly, that it was funded at the request of Special Branch who he said found it useful to identify people with paedophile inclinations; and thirdly, that it was a grant being extended for a further period and therefore did not require a consultant's input. At that meeting I believe he may have shown me a copy of Magpie, PIE's magazine, as evidence of its campaigning stance. I certainly remember seeing one at this time in his office.
31. In the meeting Clifford Hindley did not imply sympathy with PIE or what PIE was campaigning for but neither did he make any apology or denial of VSU funding of it. Nor did he indicate that he was aware of the support Albany Trust was giving to PIE.
32. I left the meeting with Clifford Hindley with a clear understanding that he wished me to 'back off'. I believe Clifford Hindley's reference to Special Branch interest was sufficient for me to accept this without further challenge.

33. I remember telling Alan Davies about the outcome of my meeting with Clifford Hindley and he said he might mention it to some of his external contacts including an MP. I think it might have been Sir Bernard Braine, but I do not know.
34. About a week or so later, I was in the general office when Brian Chaplin, the Principal who worked with Clifford Hindley on the Albany Trust grant, and who was responsible for the administrative aspect of the grants was present. Also present was David Scagell, Senior Principal who was about to replace Brian Chaplin and the Registry Clerk, Irene Cole. I asked to see the WRVS file which Brian Chaplin had in his hand. David Scagell said I could not have it as it was nothing to do with a consultant. I did not understand why he refused me access to the file. It was the only time I was ever refused access to any file I requested while I worked in the VSU.
35. I took no further action in relation to my concern on the VSU apparently funding PIE via a grant to the WRVS. I was not aware of how this matter was progressed in the VSU. What I can say was that Clifford Hindley and Alan Davies were fully aware of my concern over the apparent funding of PIE via the WRVS.
36. I was aware, of a controversy over the WRVS grant. I do not have a clear recollection of the details of the controversy but believe it may have been something to do with the then Treasurer of WRVS. Alan Davies refers to this in his email to me dated June 30, 2016 (INQ000132_001). My only involvement was to find out if and why it had no constitution / was not a registered charity. I was not aware that it related to PIE in any way but it may have done.