

Witness Name: Simon Danczuk
Statement No.: 1
Exhibits: 3
Dated: 27 November 2018

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

EXHIBIT SD/2

Lawrence Lupin

From: simon danczuk [redacted] DPA
Sent: 18 November 2018 20:14
To: Lawrence Lupin; IICSA
Subject: FW: Historic sexual abuse matters
Attachments: Danczuk.docx

Please read this account from Matt Baker, who worked in my office, of his dealings with Michael Cookson before his death, and subsequent evidence we learnt of regarding Driberg.

From: matthew baker <[redacted] DPA>
Sent: 10 October 2018 13:02
To: simon danczuk
Subject: FW: Historic sexual abuse matters

Hi Simon,

Further to my recent email about Tom Driberg, I've had a look through past emails and wanted to give you a summary of what we received.

We had several emails with Michael Cookson and I spoke to him on a number of occasions about the case he worked on with Labour's Tom Driberg MP.

Michael Cookson was a CID Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police Central Command in 1968 when he was the junior member of a team who surveilled a succession of teenage escapees from Feltham Young Offenders Institute entering the home of Tom Driberg MP.

They interviewed some of the boys and it was clear that Driberg was abusing them. They filed an application to charge to charge to the DPP and were told "it is not in the public interest to proceed with the investigation".

He was very upset by this and contacted our office to register his disappointment in the DPP before he died suddenly from a heart attack. We also spoke to his widow afterwards and a Labour researcher from the period who told me he'd been warned by Labour staffers from the period never to get into a lift with Driberg because he was a sexual predator.

I am also aware that Driberg appears in the book Closet Queens by Michael Bloch where he is referred to as an expert in bribing police.

Finally, I spoke to the author Anthony Daly at length in 2014/15 about Tom Driberg. Driberg's interest in young boys is covered extensively in Daly's book Playland: Secrets of a Forgotten Scandal, published by Mirror Books in 2018.

Kind regards,

Matt