

Witness Name: Ian Colin Lucas

Statement No.: 2

Exhibits: None

Dated: 25 March 2019

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**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**Second Witness Statement of Ian Colin Lucas**

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I, Ian Colin Lucas of **DPA** will say as follows:-

1. I make this further statement in response to allegations or statements made by Jane Lee which were not made known to me by the Inquiry at the time of my initial statement.
2. My initial statement is entirely accurate.
3. I have now seen the written statement of Jane Lee which contains a number of assertions not put to me and not known to me at the time I made my initial statement. At the time when I made my first statement, more limited information about Jane Lee and Graham Nicholls' allegations was provided to me, and it was to that information and the questions asked that I responded. I did not have copies of either of their statements. See the Rule 9 request which was sent to me, which I exhibit to this statement and which sets out the information on which I based my first statement.
4. The journalist referred at paragraph 1 of Jane Lee's statement to was not called Eileen Neidermyer. Her name was Eileen Nederlof. She did not work for the Wrexham Leader. She worked for a Chester newspaper.
5. Jane Lee says that at the time of these events, in 1988/1989, I was the Chair of the Gresford and Rossett branch of the Labour Party. In fact, I was an individual member of a Labour Party branch in Wrexham and although I did hold a number of branch offices, I cannot recall which particular office I held at this time. Like Jane Lee, I had no contacts in Chester Labour Party. I also had no contacts in the national Labour Party.
6. In my first statement at paragraph 3, I set out what I remember hearing from Eileen Nederlof in the pub at some point in 1988/89. As I make clear, what was repeated was a rumour, or hearsay, only.

7. As far as I can remember, no stories were printed in the press afterwards (see paragraph 5 of my first statement). Jane Lee says she came to talk to me about this, perhaps a month later. This is untrue.
8. I did not have any direct conversation solely with Jane Lee concerning the allegations made by Eileen Nederlof. All of the discussions concerning the matter took place between a group of members, of which I was one, in the pub. Those conversations were initiated by Eileen Nederlof and were conversations over a drink which took place on two occasions. They were never a formal part of any meeting.
9. I have already made it plain that I did not contact anyone outside Wrexham about this matter, which was a rumour or hearsay information raised with me and a number of other Labour party members in a pub. I did not raise these issues with anyone because I had no direct knowledge of the facts of the case which were reported to me, as one of a group, which included Jane Lee.
10. I had no separate conversation before a meeting as Jane Lee suggests. I recall no such pre-meetings taking place whilst I was a branch officer.
11. I deny categorically that I ever talked of an "unwritten rule" that the Party did not expose "them" because "for every one they've got, we've got one". I did not say these words and would never say these words because it would be evidence of complicity in concealing evidence. I would never countenance such actions and am deeply upset that Jane Lee has made this false allegation. I did not refer to "paedophiles" in the manner described.
12. Jane Lee links the fact that I am now an MP with alleged actions in 1988/1989 when I was not an MP, and had no more influence than any other member. I note that she suggests that "had my sights" on a parliamentary career at the time. In her oral evidence to the Inquiry, Jane Lee also said that I "was going to stand as a Member of Parliament very shortly after that". In fact, in 1988/89 I did not have my sights set on a Parliamentary career. In 1993, I moved away from Wrexham to Oswestry where I was working as a solicitor, for family reasons. I first stood as a Parliamentary candidate in the safe Conservative seat there in 1997 because I was, and am, committed to the Labour Party. That was almost a decade after the events we are discussing.
13. I did not consider standing as the Labour candidate in Wrexham until John Marek announced he would be leaving Parliament for the Welsh Assembly in 1999. John Marek was elected in 1992 and 1997 and there was no suggestion at all in 1989 or 1990 that he would not be the Wrexham candidate. It was only in 2001 that I became the Wrexham MP. Any suggestion that my actions were linked to my Parliamentary career is demonstrably untrue and damaging.
14. I am very upset by any suggestions that I was involved in a cover up and that I did nothing about sexual abuse, and this is wholly untrue. On the contrary, I have, in Parliament, raised matters linked to sexual abuse on a number of occasions as this has been an issue in Wrexham and North Wales throughout my Parliamentary career.

My interventions are a matter of record and no-one has ever before suggested that I agreed to cover up information.

15. It is entirely untrue to suggest that I took part in a cover up in 1989 to further my Parliamentary career, which did not actually start until over a decade later.
16. I have no knowledge of any pact as described in the evidence of Graham Nicholls. I had no contact with Chester Labour Party until after I was elected as Wrexham's MP in 2001 and my contact has been limited since.
17. I note from her statement that Jane Lee had a relationship with Graham Nicholls who has made a number of allegations in this case. I am concerned that she may have discussed these matters with him and that her memories are unreliable.
18. I am very upset that she suggests that I conspired to take part in a cover up on the basis of wholly erroneous timescales and that the full context was not made known to me when I was asked to give evidence to the Inquiry. I wish to use this opportunity to rebut these false and damaging allegations. Jane Lee has never contacted me concerning these matters despite my role as Wrexham's MP since 2001 and my public intervention in Parliament on matters related to child sexual abuse in Wrexham and North Wales on a number of occasions during my Parliamentary career.

### Statement of Truth

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ **DPA** \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 25/3/2019

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**EXHIBIT [ ] / 1**

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