

Witness Name:
Statement No.: 2
Exhibits:
Dated:

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Commander Neil Jerome

I, Commander Neil Jerome of the Metropolitan Police Service, will say as follows:-

1. I make this statement in response to the Rule 9 request made by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse for a witness statement which sets out and comments upon the searches that were undertaken on records held by the Metropolitan Police Service Special Branch (now held by the MPS' Counter Terrorism Command).
2. I have seen and read the statement of my colleague, Detective Inspector Alastair Pocock. As he explains at paragraph 6 of his statement, at the request of IICSA the MPS' Public Inquiry Liaison Team conducted various searches and produced 69 research reports on certain named individuals and 3 research reports concerning the Paedophile Information Exchange.
3. As DI Pocock explains at paragraph 7 of his statement, those reports were passed to Operation Winter Key. A suitably vetted member of Operation Winter Key has reviewed the reports for the purposes of assessing whether the information set out in the reports discloses evidence of a 'Westminster paedophile network' or of any attempts to cover up or suppress the existence of such a network and informed me of their conclusions, as set out below.
4. Without disclosing the content of the 72 reports, it is relevant to note that they contain inter alia records of open-source reporting (including reports in the media and on social media) of particular individuals being named as being a paedophile.
5. In assessing whether there is evidence of a 'Westminster paedophile network' or of any attempts to cover up or suppress the existence of such a network, it is important to note that the concept of a 'network' is not one that is clearly defined in law. In terms of criminal offences, the following are most likely to be relevant to what could be understood to be a 'network' of criminality:
 - (a) Conspiracy (which is an offence by reason of s.1 of the Criminal Law 1977);
 - (b) Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of an indictable offence (which can be tried, indicted and punished as if the abettor etc was a

principal offender) (which are offences contrary to s.8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861); and

- (c) Doing, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, any act with intent to impede the apprehension or prosecution of any other person who, he knows or believes to be guilty of an offence (which is an offence by reason of s.4 of the Criminal Law 1977).

6. Interpreting the concept of a 'Westminster paedophile network' or of any attempts to cover up or suppress the existence of such a network, consistent with those offences; on the basis of the Winter Key officer's review of the reports, I am content that there is no evidence of a 'Westminster paedophile network' or of any attempts to cover up or suppress the existence of such a network.

Statement of Truth

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

DPA

Signed: _____

Dated: _____ 8 February 2019 _____