

Police response to follow up enquiry from CICA

Applicant	MR PETER ROBSON
Crime reference number	DPA
CICA reference number	

Summary of information / comments:

You have asked if I can assist you to decide whether to make an award for compensation and to do this you have posed the questions below which I have tried to answer to help you to reach a decision:

The investigations in to the applicant's complaint took place as part of a wider investigation. What was this investigation? DURHAM CONSTABULARY WERE CONTACTED BY A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS, SOME DIRECTLY AND SOME VIA THEIR SOLICITORS, WHO ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED WHEN THEY WERE AT "THE CASTLE SCHOOL" IN STANHOPE IN WEARDALE. ADDITIONALLY SOME OF THE EX-PUPILS ALLEGED THAT, WHILST THEY WERE NOT SEXUALLY ABUSED, THEY WERE TREATED ROUGHLY BY STAFF. THE SCHOOL WAS AN APPROVED SCHOOL WITH OPENED IN THE EARLY 1940s AND WAS CLOSED IN 1981 (HAVING BECOME A RESIDENTIAL RATHER THAN AN APPROVED SCHOOL CIRCA 1974). THE SCHOOL HOUSED CIRCA 100 BOYS AT A TIME AND IT WAS OPEN FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS; ABOUT 30 EX-PUPILS CONTACTED POLICE ABOUT THEIR TREATMENT THERE. THAT INVESTIGATION, UNDER THE HEADING "OPERATION MIDDAY" INCLUDED PETER ROBSON'S ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED BY A FELLOW PUPIL CALLED **Child 9**

The applicant's complaint was crimed. What does this mean? IN ACCORDANCE WITH 'NATIONAL CRIME RECORDING STANDARDS', IF A CRIME IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED THEN POLICE HAVE TO PROPERLY RECORD THIS AND TO INVESTIGATE IN SO FAR AS THEY ARE REASONABLY ABLE TO. THIS MEANS THAT THE ALLEGATION MADE BY PETER ROBSON WAS ALLOCATED A CRIME NUMBER ('CRIMED' - SORRY FOR THE JARGON) AND AN INVESTIGATION WAS OPENED.

Was there evidence that corroborated the applicant's account? PETER ROBSON ALLEGES THAT **Child 9** **Child 9** ANALLY RAPED HIM ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BETWEEN 1963-1967. HE HAS NO IDEA HOW OLD **Child 9** WAS ONLY THAT HE WAS OLDER THAN HIM; HE HAS NO IDEA WHEN HE LEFT STANHOPE CASTLE SCHOOL OR WHERE HE WAS FROM. PETER ROBSON LEFT STANHOPE CASTLE SCHOOL 16/10/1967, ALMOST 40YRS AGO. PETER ROBSON SAYS THAT HE FIRST DISCLOSED WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS SISTER **Name Redacted** WHEN HE WAS UNWELL BETWEEN 1993-1997. PETER WAS ESTRANGED FROM HIS SISTER, BUT IO MICK ELSOM TRACED AND SPOKE TO HER, HOWEVER SHE REFUSED TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DIRECT CORROBORATION THAT HE WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED, THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE WASN'T.... HE IS ALLEGING THAT A FELLOW PUPIL SEXUALLY ABUSED HIM WHILST THEY WERE BOTH RESIDENT AT THE APPROVED SCHOOL IN THE 1960S. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE CHILDREN PLACED IN THE INSTITUTION WILL HAVE BEEN VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND THAT SOME OF THEM WILL THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE PRIOR TO BEING PLACED IN THE SCHOOL; SUCH CHILDREN MAY HAVE GONE ON TO PERPETRATE SEXUAL ABUSE ON OTHER CHILDREN.

We understand that the alleged offender was not traced in respect to this incident. Was it ever established that a person corresponding to the name given by the applicant as his assailant **Child 9** **Child 9** had attended the school? NO; POLICE CONTACTED ALL OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO