

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness statement of Serena Kennedy

I Serena Kennedy will say as follows:-

1. I am Assistant Chief Constable Serena Kennedy of Merseyside Police. My current portfolio is that of investigations and intelligence. Within that portfolio is the Public Protection Unit and the Unity team, which investigates allegations of rape and other serious sexual offences. During my career I have worked in three North West forces in both uniform and CID roles. I joined Merseyside Police in 2017.
2. I make this statement pursuant to the Rule 9 request from the Inquiry made under cover of the letter of 19 July 2018. I am duly authorised to make this statement.
3. In making this statement I have been assisted by Officers and Staff of Merseyside Police. The source of my knowledge is apparent from the context of the statement.

Role and responsibility of Merseyside Police in relation to investigations of allegations of child sexual abuse.

4. I note that the Inquiry has asked that I outline the procedures and any changes in procedures since the St Vincents case study enquiry was concluded in 2003. There have been changes in relation to the way matters are investigated. The changes can be broadly attributed to, changes in technology, learning from other operations and the development of approved national practice. The force does not hold the detail of each of the individual changes since 2003 and therefore I set out below the procedures that we currently follow.
5. The role and responsibility of Merseyside Police, in relation to investigating allegations of child sexual abuse (CSA), is outlined in the Merseyside Police Child Abuse Policy. (SK1)