

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005
RE – THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (IICSA)

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
DANIEL RICHARDS OF SOUTH WALES POLICE IN RESPONSE TO THE RULE 9
REQUEST - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY ORGANISED NETWORKS (OCTOBER 2020)

1. I am Detective Chief Superintendent Daniel Richards. Until the 1st June 2020, I temporarily held the post of Assistant Chief Constable, Specialist Crime. This portfolio included responsibility for the force's response to Child Sexual Exploitation. I was also the lead for the Wales Region and the Chief Officer Lead for the Regional Organised Crime Unit. In September 2020, I gave evidence to the Inquiry on behalf of the Chief Constable.
2. I make this statement in response to a letter dated 15th October 2020 received from Oliver Carlyon, the Investigation Lawyer on behalf of the Inquiry. Save where the contrary appears, I make this witness statement from facts within my own knowledge and belief and which I believe to be true. Where such matters are not within my own knowledge, I have caused enquiries to be undertaken by senior officers and staff to provide the details contained within this statement.
3. On the afternoon of the 24th September 2020, I gave evidence to the Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks tranche of the Public Inquiry. During oral evidence, I was asked a question by Inquiry Counsel, Ms Henrietta

Hill QC which related to matters outside of my knowledge on the day.

4. In oral evidence, I confirmed that there was no data to support the suggestion that there were any incidences of child sexual exploitation related to gangs in the Swansea area. The Police Service utilise the phrase networks and gangs to describe organised crime networks and groups. Inquiry Counsel asked that I consider the Inquiry's wider definition of a "network" and provide clarification on that point. I was unable to respond to this during the currency of the Inquiry and I wished to consider this point in more detail with my analytical experts. This statement shall deal with the point.

5. The Inquiry definition of an "organised network" as an organised network is as follows:-

"An organised network is characterised by two or more individuals (whether identified or not) who are known to (or associated with) one another and are known to be involved in or to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children. Being involved in the sexual exploitation of children includes introducing them to other individuals for the purpose of exploitation, trafficking a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, taking payment for sexual activities with a child or allowing their property to be used for sexual activities with a child".

6. The core data upon which we relied for the purpose of our various statements looked at instances of contact child sexual abuse in the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2019. Each incident of child sexual abuse referenced in my statement and that of Chief Superintendent Maal has been considered as against the Inquiry definition. In respect of each occurrence, I am able to confirm that the circumstances of the specific occurrences referenced within

such statements would not fall within the Inquiry definition of an organised network.

7. When the Inquiry has requested documents from South Wales Police, they have requested documents which were produced for the purposes of various strategic aims and to aid operational deployment. They were not created as bespoke documents to assist the Inquiry in relation to the specifics of the tranche of the Inquiry. On this basis, in addition to the above due diligence, I requested that an analyst consider all child sexual abuse cases within the period (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2019) as against the Inquiry “network” definition.
8. Given the need to provide the statement within a week, a methodology was established which considered all sexual offences involving young persons under the age of 18 in Swansea (as the area in respect of which the Inquiry has sought evidence). As such, all sexual offences involving young persons under the age of 18 for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2019 and for the geographical area of Swansea were downloaded. There were in excess of 600 occurrences. These were then reviewed to identify those meeting the Inquiry definition through the use of keyword searches of the details as set out in the summary, modus operandi and the content of the occurrence log. The keywords utilised included “money”, “cash”, “gift/s”, “presents”, “alcohol”, “drugs”, “expensive items”, “perfume”, “food”, “sweets”, “cigarettes”, “McDonalds”, “lift”, “allowed to be used”, “exchange”.
9. The occurrences which were identified by the keyword searches were then manually reviewed on the Niche system looking at both the suspect and the detail of the occurrence log. As a result of this analysis, we have identified an

additional two historical occurrences which may fulfil the Inquiry's definition of network.

10. The first occurrence detailed a report of sexual and physical abuse at a children's home in the Swansea area between 1950 and the late 1960's. A number of persons reported such abuse. The children were related. The initial report was made outside of the time frame set by the Inquiry but additional enquiries and reports were made during the relevant time period. The reports included sexual abuse by peers and carers. A witness was identified within the Inquiry time period who offered some corroborative detail of the home between mid 1950 and 1965 but did not recall any unusual activity or ill treatment of children. The victims could not describe the name of the suspect/s apart from the fact that they were male. The detailed information outlined by the victims suggests that the occurrences may meet the Inquiry definition of an Organised Network albeit that the offences are historic and not within the time period specified by the Inquiry.

11. The second occurrence was reported in 2017 and remains live and under investigation. The reporting adult has alleged sexual abuse by family members and that the individual was passed around other persons known to her family to be abused. The victim believes that some of the offences were committed by a "Paedophile ring". The investigation remains live and there is a possibility that the offences disclosed could be part of a wider historic organised network. Given that this investigation remains live and the potential for identification of the victim or those alleged to be involved and/or have links to the victim, I am restricted in what I may detail

12. Finally, I would draw the Inquiry's attention to the Regional work being undertaken in relation to CSE by the Regional Organised Crime Unit. This work has widened in its remit with the Regional Threat document considering all aspects of CSAE and not just those crimes "flagged" as CSE. To that end, it considers all sexual offences where the victim was under the age of 18. The Monthly All Wales Threat document is, to that extent, an extensive consideration of all child sexual abuse whether linked to potential CSE at the source or not. This is, I would suggest, evidence of the extensive steps taken to ensure that we capture all occurrences of child sexual abuse regardless of classification or flagging procedures.

I confirm that the content of this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNED DHFR

DATED 22/10/2020