

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

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

I, Daniel Richards, will say as follows:

- I. I am Chief Superintendent Daniel Richards. Until the 1st June 2020, I temporarily held the post of Assistant Chief Constable, Specialist Crime. My portfolio as Assistant Chief Constable included responsibility for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within the South Wales Police area. I was also the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) lead for the Wales Region and the Chief Officer lead for the Regional Organised Crime Unit. Whilst I am no longer in this post (I currently carry out an interim Criminal Justice role), given my extensive engagement with the matters requested by the Inquiry including operating as Head of Specialist Crime (including Public Protection) for 20 months, it has been decided that I shall continue to support and provide material and evidence to the Inquiry on behalf of the Chief Constable.
- II. I make this statement in response to the letters dated 22nd July 2020 received from Oliver Carlyon, the Investigation Lawyer on behalf of the Inquiry.
- III. 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.
- IV. For ease of reference, exhibits referred to and exhibited to the statement shall be italicised.

UPDATED POSITION

1. I have been asked to produce a witness statement exhibiting the following documents pursuant to Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006:
 - (a) Minutes of any recent Child Sexual Exploitation Regional Tactical Group meetings not provided to the Inquiry previously;
 - (b) A copy of the CSAE Tracker if updated since November 2019;
 - (c) Any documentation relating to the evaluation of the project piloted by South Wales Police in respect of the multi-agency response to children missing from care homes as referred to in paragraph 1.34 of the witness statement of Assistant Chief Constable Daniel Richards dated 19 February 2020 (SWP000151); and
 - (d) Any further evaluations or audits carried out in relation to the eight themes.

2. In February 2020, the Regional Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation (CSAE) Coordinator for the Regional Organised Crime Unit (TARIAN in South Wales) held an 'Exploitation Tactical' meeting with the three Southern Wales Forces to consider tactical options for all forms of child exploitation. Whilst the meeting was not minuted, it was designed to consider all forms of Child exploitation and the agenda included group discussion around County Lines threat across the region (led by the County Lines/Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Coordinator), individual force Updates, current issues, emerging threats, good practice; Input on the Regional Organised Crime Threat Assessment and discussion as to Intelligence sharing.

3. I append hereto marked "DR/1 - 4" the agenda and minutes from the last two All-Wales Strategic CSAE Threat Group which I chaired in March 2020 and June 2020.

"DR/1" - Agenda March 2020

"DR / 2" - Minutes of March 2020 meeting

"DR/3" - Agenda June 2020

"DR/4" - Minutes of June 2020 meeting

4. I have been asked by the Inquiry to provide a copy of the CSAE Tracker if it had been updated since November 2019. I can confirm that the Tracker has not been further updated. It was a benchmark indicating progress to November 2019. I append hereto marked as "DR/5" the current control strategy which identifies the work ongoing currently to develop the business area (CSAE).

5. In my statement dated 19th February 2020 at paragraph 1.34 (SWP000151), I referenced a project piloted by South Wales Police in respect of the multi agency response to children missing from care homes. I append hereto as requested marked as "DR/6" a copy of the Missing Person Pilot Evaluation dated March 2020.

6. I have also been asked to identify and exhibit any further evaluations or audits carried out in relation to the eight themes of the Inquiry. There have been no internal or external inspections in force that relate to CSE and the themes of the Inquiry since my last statement.

7. In light of my experience in managing the team collating together the responses to the Inquiry and my overarching role leading upon Specialist Crime, in March 2020, I requested that a review be undertaken of all individuals identified as perpetrators or potential perpetrators of child sexual exploitation. This was designed to identify the individuals who were referenced in my earlier statements and to be able to offer some clarity as to the management of the risk that such individuals may pose after the victim had been safeguarded and the initial risk abated (whether by the successful use of the criminal justice process or not). This review looked at all perpetrators in the South Wales Police area and identified
 - (a) The outcome at the time of the CSE referral / police engagement?
 - (b) The current intelligence picture
 - (c) The current risk
 - (d) Whether they are managed via statutory obligation / VISOR?

Filed on behalf of: The Chief Constable of South Wales Police

Witness Name: Daniel Richards

Dated: 13th August 2020

Filed in response to request dated 22nd July 2020

Exhibits: "DR1" - "DR6"

- (e) If they are not managed formally by means of (d) above, whether any additional steps may be taken to manage any risk
 - (f) Position in relation to use of / potential use of markers/flags/intelligence assessments/mappa etc
8. As a result of this review and work undertaken under this umbrella, I have set that this work shall be completed annually in respect of all such identified offenders in addition to our standard reviews, audits and assessments.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

SIGNED

DPA

DATED 13th August 2020