

**Witness Name:** Simon Morley  
**Statement No.:** 2  
**Exhibits:** 0  
**Dated:** 07.05.2020

**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF SIMON MORLEY**

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I, Simon Morley, will say as follows:-

**Introduction**

1. I am a Detective Inspector with the Metropolitan Police Service ('the MPS'). I make this statement in that capacity, on behalf of the MPS, in response to a Rule 9 request relating to the MPS's investigations into Geoffrey Clarke.
2. I am currently deployed within the Operation Winter Key team based at Cam Road. I have held this role since 2015. Further details of my background and experience are set out in my First Witness Statement dated 4 May 2020.
3. I have had no personal involvement in any of the police investigations into Geoffrey Clarke. In providing this statement, I rely upon information obtained from: the MPS Home Office Major Crime Enquiries System ('HOLMES'); the Crime Reporting Information System ('CRIS'); MPS intelligence systems; and documentation that has been archived and/or retained from the original investigations.

**Factual Background**

4. Geoffrey Clarke was born on DPA 1949 and worked for Lambeth Council as a computer programmer in the Computer Department between July 1969 and June 1991. During this time he volunteered at Shirley Oaks to facilitate sporting activities

7	Unknown	<p>Taking indecent photographs Section 1(1)(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978</p> <p>Geoffrey Charles Clarke on a day between the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 1997 and the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1997 took an indecent photograph of a child under the age of 16 years.</p>
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25. On 2 November 1998 Geoffrey Clarke was convicted on all of the above counts and on 27 November 1998 he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. At the time, this meant that Clarke would remain on the Sex Offenders Register for life.<sup>15</sup> Clarke appealed the sentence and on 4 May 1999 the Court of Appeal reduced it to two years' imprisonment. This meant that Clarke would only remain on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years. The outcome of Clarke's appeal was communicated to the parents of [LA-A188] and [LA-A215] on 14 May 1999.<sup>16</sup>
26. I do not know what, if any, actions Kent Police took to inform those responsible for placing children into foster care about Clarke's conviction. It appears, however, that Kent Social Services sent letters to "CPCs" in Lambeth, Southwark and London Boroughs in March 1998 in order to inform them that Clarke should not be used as a foster carer again.<sup>17</sup> I am not sure what the term "CPC" means but it is likely that it refers to a 'Child Protection Coordinator'.

#### Operation Middleton Investigation into Geoffrey Clarke (2000 - 2003)

##### *Initial awareness of Geoffrey Clarke*

27. Geoffrey Clarke appears to have come to the notice of Operation Middleton as a result of being mentioned by former residents of Shirley Oaks in their statements to the investigation team. Many referred to Clarke as "*Poofy Geoff*" and alleged that Clarke would regularly take children from Shirley Oaks out in his car and sell sweets from the boot of his car to the children.<sup>18</sup>
28. Geoffrey Clarke first appears in Operation Middleton records in an entry dated 13 January 2000 in DCI Ranson's day book.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> D3772, Certificate of Conviction.

<sup>16</sup> D3773, Kent Crime Report 1997 re Clarke.

<sup>17</sup> D1864, Material fm CHILE team re Clarke.

<sup>18</sup> MG5, Case Summary R v Geoffrey Clarke, at para.5.

<sup>19</sup> D6139, DCI Ranson Daybook. A "day book" is a notebook where a detective makes their contemporaneous notes in regards an ongoing investigation and the day-to-day issues arising; it is the equivalent of a uniformed officer's pocket notebook.