

STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: HILL

Forenames: VINCENT

Age: 57 Date of Birth: [DPA] 1957

Address: [DPA] LANCASHIRE

Postcode: [DPA]

Occupation: RETIRED

Telephone No: [DPA]

Statement Date: 11/05/2015

Appearance Code: WHITE - NORTH EUROPEAN

Build:

Height (From):

Height (To):

Hair Details: Position Style Colour

Left Eye Colour:

Right Eye Colour:

Complexion1:

Complexion2:

Glasses Worn:

Glasses Use::

Accent Details: General Specific Qualifier

Number of Pages: 2

I am the above named person and I reside at an address I have given to the Police.

Further to my statement that I gave on 19th December 2014 I would like to add the following.

I am aware that there has been certain developments and recent publicity about some former Police officers coming forward and disclosing that they had been involved in previous arrests or investigations of Cyril Smith.

0601020114P46-S19A P46 OP CLIFTON INVESTIGATION OF GMP AND RMBC COVER UP RE KNOWL VIEW 07102014

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Over a period of time those officers were either removed from the investigation or it was closed down and those officers were removed. They whosoever they are indicated that they were threatened with prosecution under the official secrets act if they talked about the case they had been involved in. One of these officers allegedly went to Cyril Smiths house with another officer and Cyril Smith was there with certain other persons. A training Sergeant was mentioned and he was told not to say anything. I only know this because of what has been in the press .It would appear that incidents involving Cyril Smith were covered up. When I was interviewed on 5th December 2014 I explained that I was working on Operation Cleopatra and involved in an investigation concerning Cyril Smith. I did not see eye to eye with the Senior Investigating Officer Detective Superintendent Roberts on certain matters and I was removed from the investigation. Mr Roberts was a very capable investigating officer, but in my opinion did not have a full understanding of child abuse and how to investigate it. I was quite outspoken.DC Mary Hough was my partner at work and she and I were involved in submitting a report about Cyril Smith. During this time Mary was removed from the investigation and the reason given for her being removed from the enquiry was given that she was rude to a social worker. She had been investigating domestic violence and child abuse over a long period in her career and had dealt with a large number of social workers. I was the Detective Sergeant on Operation Cleopatra and as such was Mary's line manager. I was not involved or consulted about this alleged incident of rudeness and was not included in this decision. I was quite vocal about this and other matters. The management team excluded the outside enquiry teams from their managing of Cleopatra. The two other Sergeants were Louise Evans and Tony Griffiths. The management of Cleopatra was done by Det Supt Roberts, DI Hewlett and the HOLMES team.

Sometime in 1998 and I cannot remember the date I was called to see Det Supt Roberts and he told me that I had been rude to a social worker. He advised me to ask to be removed from the enquiry. I refused. I told him that if he wanted me to leave the enquiry he would have to remove me himself, so he did. There was no discussion it just happened.

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As more information has come to light in the press I now believe my removal from the enquiry was about me querying decisions about Cyril Smith. I think my removal and reasons given will be recorded in Mr Roberts Policy book.

Not long before I was removed from Operation Cleopatra I had been to Wakefield Prison to interview a male called [REDACTED RO-A28]. He made allegations of Buggery and indecent assault against a teacher at Knowl View School.

Det Supt Roberts was well known within the team working on Operation Cleopatra to have regularly stated that we were not to investigate offences at Knowl View School as it wasn't within our remit.

Around this time but I do not know when, Cyril Smith and Harry Wild applied to GMP to provide funding for a hostel. My understanding is that it was for boys aged 11 to 19 years. My recollection is that as a result of this application Det Supt Roberts contacted Chief Supt Chris Cross who was at this time was staff officer to the Chief Constable. He expressed our concerns that Cyril Smith was under investigation and that this funding should not be approved.

I don't know whether the funding was stopped or not but it will be recorded. All of this and my removal from the enquiry took place around the same time. I did not find out what happened to [REDACTED RO-A28] complaint. DC Kevin Taylor was the researcher who was trying to trace the offender who was a former Knowl View School teacher.

I have no recollection of the alleged incident involving the incident where I was supposedly rude to the social worker.

This all makes me believe that power was being exerted from above to anyone looking too closely at Cyril Smith. As far as I am aware Operation Cleopatra was closed down before enquiries with Cyril Smith and Knowl View School were completed.

Signed: V HILL Signature Witnessed By:

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