

FAO Professor Alexis Jay

Chair of the inquiry

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

23rd January 2018

Dear Professor Jay,

I write to you regarding the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and specifically in respect of the evidence given by Richard Farnell concerning child sexual abuse in Rochdale at the former Knowl View School.

At the inquiry, the lead counsel Mr. Altman QC asked Mr. Farnell if he knew about the abuse at Knowl View School and assumed that if the late Councillor Mary Moffat knew of the abuse then surely, she would have told Mr Farnell about it.

I wish to place on record that of all the Labour councillors serving on Rochdale Council at that time (early 1990's) there were none who were closer to Mary Moffat than I was. Not only was I a close political colleague of Mrs Moffat but I was also a very close personal friend. I often went out to dinner with Mrs Moffat and met with her socially. I frequently spent weekends and bank holidays with Mrs Moffat and her husband David at their holiday home in Porthmadog and in the summer of 1992, I went on a two weeks holiday with Mr and Mrs Moffat where we rented a house near Gemozac, Charente Maritime in France.

I can state categorically that at no time did Mary Moffat ever speak to me about any alleged child sexual abuse at Knowl View School. She never mentioned the matter to me either briefly in passing or in any detail.

If there was ever going to be a friend or colleague to whom she would have spoken about the matter, it would certainly have been me as I was the closest colleague to her apart from her husband David. I was much closer to her as both a colleague and personal friend than Mr Farnell ever was.

May I thank you for taking the time to read my submission to the inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Neil Patrick Emmott

DPA