

Witness Name: Cecilia French
Statement No.: 2
Exhibits: N/A
Dated: 24 January 2019

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Cecilia French on behalf of the HOME OFFICE

I, Cecilia French, Director of the Public Protection Directorate, Crime, Policing & Fire Group, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, will say as follows:

1. This supplementary witness statement is provided in response to the Inquiry's further Rule 9 request of 10 January 2019 which identified certain additional matters to be addressed further to my first witness statement provided to the Inquiry in draft form on 21 December 2018 and in final form on 10 January 2019. The Inquiry's additional requests and the corresponding answers to those requests are as follows:

Civil order review/post-legislative review

2. The Inquiry asked whether the civil order review referred to in paragraph 22 of my first statement is the same as the post-legislative review referred to in paragraph 29. I confirm that these are two separate reviews.
3. The post-legislative review referred to in paragraph 29 will consider the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in its entirety. For all Acts gaining Royal Assent since 2005, the department responsible for implementing the legislation must, three to five years after Royal Assent, submit a preliminary assessment to the relevant select committee setting out how the Act has worked in practice and whether its objectives have been achieved.
4. The preliminary assessment of a post-legislative review would usually outline the objectives of the Act, whether its provisions have been implemented and a summary of any other assessments conducted in relation to the Act. The purpose of this process is to ensure that in appropriate cases the relevant select committee can consider whether a fuller review would be appropriate.
5. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a wide range of provisions, including those relating to the relevant civil orders. Accordingly, a memorandum will be submitted to the Home Affairs Select Committee with a short

preliminary assessment of how the Act, including provisions relating to the civil orders, has worked in practice relative to its objectives.

6. By contrast, the ongoing review referred to in paragraph 22 is focussing solely, and in greater depth, on the civil order regime. This process is involving qualitative interviews with a selection of police forces and consideration of data from the VISOR database provided by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). It is expected that the review will be completed in spring 2019, at which point a copy of the report will be shared with the Inquiry. The findings will be used to inform ongoing policy work.

Strategic boards

7. The Inquiry asked for information about the strategic boards referred to in paragraph 23. In addition to the Sex Offender and Violent Offender (SOVO) Management Board, officials from the Home Office attend the NPCC's Management of Sex Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) National Working Group and the Ministry of Justice's Responsible Authority National Steering Group (RANSNG). The MOSOVO National Working Group has a similar function to the SOVO Management Board, but it is attended by a greater number of police forces and tends to focus more on operational work. The RANSNG is a separate strategic meeting concerned with managing all issues relating to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
8. The MOSOVO National Working Group meets three times a year and is chaired by the NPCC Lead for MOSOVO. It is attended by operational leads from the police forces, ACRO and the National Crime Agency. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss ongoing priorities regarding the management of sex offenders and violent offenders.
9. The RANSNG is the strategic meeting which directs, governs and manages all issues relevant to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). It brings together the Police, Probation and Prison Services and ensures that agencies effectively share information regarding the risk assessment and management of offenders managed under MAPPA (which includes all registered sex offenders). The RANSNG meets three times a year to ensure that appropriate MAPPA processes are developed, defined and issued to relevant agencies, including the relevant Responsible Authority and Duty to Cooperate Agencies. The RANSNG also promotes the consistent implementation of best practice in MAPPA arrangements throughout England and Wales to achieve the highest standards in risk assessment and management.
10. The Inquiry also asked how frequently the SOVO Management Board meets. The frequency at which the Board meets has varied. It currently meets three times per year, but between 2012 – 2016 it convened on a less frequent basis.

VISOR

11. The Inquiry has noted the reference in Exhibit 2 of my statement to work with the National policing lead on recording of foreign travel data on ViSOR and has asked whether police forces now record whether Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) include foreign travel restriction and what progress has been made.
12. Police forces have always been able to record cases where an SHPO includes a foreign travel restriction on the ViSOR database. The issue related to the ease with which this data could subsequently be compiled and reported for monitoring purposes where, for example, there was a request for the total number of SHPOs with foreign travel restrictions in place.
13. The ViSOR database now allows the police forces to perform an advanced search so that this information can be gathered more efficiently, so long as the data is inputted correctly.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

DPA

Dated: 24 January 2019

