

Witness Name: Jane Lee
Statement No: 1
Exhibits:
Dated:

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Jane Lee

I, Jane Lee, will say as follows:-

1. I have known about the cover-up of information about child sexual abuse by Peter Morrison MP since some time between April 1989 and the end of 1990, when I was Secretary of Gresford and Rossett branch of the Labour Party but lived in Hoole, Chester. I had delayed my transfer to the Hoole branch of the Chester Party as I wanted to support my colleagues in the newly-formed Gresford and Rossett branch in the upcoming local elections, being an active member of the campaigning team. Ian Lucas was Chair. It was during this period that LP member and journalist, Eileen Neidermyer, at a get-together in the pub after our monthly branch meeting, told us what was going to be reported in the next day's Wrexham Leader, where she worked, about the Chester MP, Peter Morrison and the boy/s in Crewe railway station toilets.
2. At this time I was very new to local politics and didn't know anything about the Chester constituency or any Chester LP members – Wrexham is in Wales and even the regional events all-Wales affairs so I never met Chester Labour Party members.
3. The revelations did not appear and after the next branch meeting a month later Eileen told us the report had to be pulled as the Chief Constable of Cheshire had had a call from "the Prime Minister's Office" and had been asked that the charges be dropped and replaced by an official caution and in return Peter Morrison would stand down at the next General Election. The Chief Constable, we were told, had agreed. I believe that at the time cautions could not be reported but if that is not the case there must be some other reason why the story was not printed. We were all disappointed at this news and I am ashamed to say that my initial disappointment was that my

soon-to-be-colleagues in the LP in Chester had lost publicity, which would have translated into Labour votes.

4. By the time of the next branch meeting another month later I was still concerned, however, and consulted Ian Lucas, before the meeting, saying that it wasn't right and that we should contact the Party and 'do something about this'. Ian said he already had; he'd rung someone in the Party hierarchy and been told about an unwritten rule that we don't expose "them" in other Parties because, "for every one they've got, we've got one". The word paedophile was never used but we both knew that was what was being referred to. It was a shock, to both of us, I think and I for one was stunned. I decided that, given that response, the best thing I could do was to forget all about it so as not to have to admit the Party's dreadful complicity; I found myself now covering up for Labour Party paedophiles instead of exposing one in the Conservative Party. I did not tell anyone else that I had information about my Party that I wished I didn't have and was also conscious that Ian had his sights on a Parliamentary career and I didn't want to harm his prospects, after all, he was no more guilty than I. I think Ian did the same and I do not believe that he has ever had anything to do with child sexual abuse or that he has anything but abhorrence for it but the fact remains that we both did nothing and I am terribly ashamed of myself for that. I haven't seen or spoken to Ian and his wife since his children were little and they must be in their thirties by now. We gradually lost touch as I became more active in Hoole and then I left the Party when Tony Blair became leader and subsequently Prime Minister; there was no reason to antagonise former friends who held diametrically opposite views and Ian had won his seat in the 2001 and rose quite quickly to Tony Blair's front bench. I also lost touch with the other members, including Eileen Neidermyer.
5. In June 1990 I transferred my membership to Hoole LP and was an active member. I met branch Chair Graham Nicholls and we became good friends and worked closely on campaigning and local initiatives in Hoole. (After he left his wife and before I left the party in 1997, we also had a very brief relationship but it went nowhere and we went back to being friends until he married his third wife, when our friendship ended, unfortunately.)
6. At some stage after Graham Nicholls retired he left Chester and moved back to Gillingham and we kept in touch: I visited him once in Gillingham and on another occasion he visited Chester and I remember spending an afternoon with him and his