

Witness Name: Alastair Pocock  
Statement No.: 2  
Exhibits:  
Dated: 06.03.2019

## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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### Witness Statement of Alastair Pocock

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I, Alastair Pocock, will say as follows:-

1. I am a Detective Inspector in the Public Inquiry Liaison Team (PILT) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
2. I make this statement in response to the Rule 9 request made by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for a witness statement which sets out the searches that were undertaken of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch (MPSB) records that are now held within the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command.
3. IICSA has provided PILT, via Operation Winter Key, a list of names, organisations and establishments in relation to the Westminster strand, which have been searched on systems with a Government Security Classification (GSC) of SECRET, available to PILT for information on electronic databases or information within hard copy files that relate to the requested search criteria.
4. Searches have been conducted on the relevant electronic databases, and hard copy files and paper records have been searched to find information pertaining to the search terms provided, and any consequent indication of activities relating to child sexual abuse linked to Westminster in particular, including tolerance of child sexual abuse, and child sex abuse in general.
5. The PILT search several electronic databases protectively marked as Secret to find files and intelligence reports that contain information relevant to the search request. PILT apply a number of search terms using structured search tools which can be refined to find pertinent records. In addition, PILT searches historic ledgers and paper records which have not been electronically indexed, to provide a comprehensive and thorough searching process to ensure that as much relevant material as possible is identified.
6. Between 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019, PILT was tasked to conduct research on the Westminster strand and produced 69 research reports on individuals and 3 research reports pertaining to the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE). PILT search reports are structured as follows: an Introduction that sets out the broad request and how PILT will conduct the searches; the Request itself in more detail; an Overview which sets out any

additional sources of information available to PILT; a Search Methodology section that details the search parameters entered and the various search functions utilised, including the number of computer records returned on the various electronic databases searched; a File Research section where the searching of hard copy paper records are documented; all of the files and intelligence reports found that contain information relevant to the request are then tabulated; in conclusion, a Summary reaffirms what has or has not been located.

7. PILT conducted searches at the request of IICSA and produced search reports on 66 named individuals, 3 search reports on the PIE, 2 search reports on organisations and 1 search report on an establishment. The reports were passed to Operation Winter Key, the Metropolitan Police Service unit with conduct of IICSA matters.
8. It must be noted that PILT has conducted research on the entities provided and has not conducted an investigation because it does not have an investigative remit.
9. In relation to the Branch Note dated 24.08.1983, it was verified that the document was produced by the MPS Obscene Publications Squad and was not an MPSB Branch Note. PILT search reports had previously been produced on the PIE individuals named in this report, however, file references within the Branch Note enabled additional information to be found in the MPS General Registry which are documented in the consequent PILT search report dated 03.12.2018. No additional information was found in MPSB records from this Branch Note.
10. In relation to the searches undertaken with respect to PIE, PILT conducted searches on the following terms: 'Tom O'Carroll', 'Keith Hose', 'PIE', 'Elm Guest House', 'Women's Royal Voluntary Service' and the 'Albany Trust'. PILT conducted searches on electronic databases and manual searches on any paper files (identified through that search on electronic databases) in order to identify relevant material. The MPSB does not hold microfiche files and so such files formed no part of this search. As above, the details of the searches regarding the PIE were set out in PILT reports.
11. With regard to the PILT's searches in relation to PIE, it was identified that a paper file was created by MPSB in July 1978 concerning PIE. This file was destroyed on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1999 under the destruction criterion applicable at the time. This criterion was that files which had not been updated and/or no new information had come to notice in relation to them for over 10 years would be destroyed. Since the file has been destroyed, its contents are unknown. During the course of research on PIE, no other relevant files were identified that have been destroyed.
12. The mere existence of the MPSB file mentioned in paragraph 11 is not necessarily indicative of an investigation having taken place in MPSB. MPSB's intelligence gathering remit included the collection and analysis of information and its development into intelligence on persons or groups. An investigation into PIE would have been undertaken by the relevant crime unit whose remit was to investigate paedophilia.
13. In conclusion, the searches undertaken by PILT found no material in Special Branch Records to indicate that MPSB either funded PIE or conducted an investigation into it.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**DPA**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

06.08.2019.