

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: HAMILTON, ARCHIE

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: THATCHERS PRIVATE SECRETARY

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: ARCHIE HAMILTON

Date: 01/02/2016

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

This statement concerns an event during my tenure as then Prime Minister Margaret THATCHER's Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS). I worked in this capacity for approximately 15 months between the period after the 1987 election and I was moved back to the Ministry of Defence in July 1988. My role as the Prime Minister's PPS was to act as a conduit between the Prime Minister and the Commons and to feed back to her what the Members of Parliament were saying. It was common that people would approach me to moan about various topics in the hope it would filter back to the Prime Minister.

I have been met by DC Tony SMITH and DC Tina DILWORTHY who have asked me specifically about a meeting between the Prime Minister and her Close Protection Officer Barry STREVEN, at which I was present. The meeting concerned Peter MORRISON who I knew well and was a friend of mine. I think he was out of Government at the time and I believe he was a backbencher. The meeting had not been planned and took place in the Prime Minister's office at the House of Commons. It is likely it happened in the late evening but I don't remember what date. Barry STREVEN knocked on the door and asked if he could speak to the Prime Minister, regarding Peter MORRISON. Barry came in and told her that he had been spoken to by a Senior Officer in Cheshire Police. I thought it was the Chief Constable but I'm aware he may have remembered it to be the Assistant Chief Constable. Barry said he'd been told that Peter MORRISON had a party at his home in Cheshire that was exclusively male. I'm aware that Barry has since said at the time it had included young men as well as adults. I don't remember this being said but I wouldn't deny it had been said. The general insinuation was that Peter MORRISON was a homosexual. The Prime Minister said something like "Well that's that then", and Barry left the office. Nothing more was said about

Signature: Archie HAMILTON
2018

Signature witnessed by:

it between us. She would have been aware of my friendship with Peter MORRISON and she herself had a long relationship with the family including Peter's father, who had also been a Member of Parliament. At no time during that meeting, or subsequently as a result of that meeting did anything Barry had said lead me to believe Peter MORRISON was a paedophile or having sexual relations with underage males. I didn't pass this information to the Whips Office and I don't know if the Prime Minister spoke to anyone about it. As the PPS I was not under any obligation to pass this information to anyone else in the Party. I was aware over the years of rumours about Peter MORRISON being found in public toilets, but these were never corroborated. Parliament was a hot bed of gossip and it was very common for rumours to be spread by Members of Parliament. It was a very competitive, macho atmosphere and not uncommon to smear a colleague in the hope it might damage their reputation. Barry has suggested that I took notes during this meeting, but I don't believe this was the case. I only usually take notes in order to brief the Prime Minister and she was already in the room. I don't keep any such notes from the period. I was surprised that the Prime Minister later appointed Peter MORRISON as her PPS but only because by that stage his drinking had become a real problem and I felt he was unreliable as a result.

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