

Witness Name: Paul Norman Connew

Statement No: 1

Exhibits:

Dated:

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Paul Norman Connew

I, **Paul Norman Connew**, will say as follows:-

1. Briefly, my journalistic career incorporates senior roles in newspapers, including Editor of the Sunday Mirror, Deputy Editor of the Daily Mirror and prior to that, Deputy Editor of the News of the World and US Bureau Chief for the Mirror Group. More recently I have become a media commentator/broadcaster, a columnist for the New European newspaper and am a co-author of three books on the future of the media in the modern/digital age and the post-Leveson climate. I am also an active member of the Society of Editors and a long-standing judge of the National and Regional British Press Awards and the Royal Television Society Awards. Some of my broadcast media work has included the issue of child sex abuse stemming from my position as the Sunday Mirror Editor who was legally thwarted from exposing Jimmy Savile in 1994. I have also acted in a pro bono way as a media advisor to some child sex abuse campaign groups on how to deal with media requests.
2. I can confirm that the hand-written police statement from my interview on 26 January 2016 is accurate (apart from the police officer misspelling Jimmy Savile's surname). This is exhibited at Exhibit PC/1 [OHY005431].
3. I had no concerns following the IOPC investigation.
4. I have no direct knowledge of police officers telling me they were personally prevented from investigating allegations of child sex abuse relating to persons of public prominence associated with Westminster. Other than a couple of senior Scotland Yard officer contacts telling me that Peter Morrison's conduct was hardly unknown to the police (as per my statement). But these officers had not directly been involved in the investigation and thus had not come under any personal pressure regarding Morrison. Subsequently I became aware through various media reports that various police officers had tried to warn then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about Morrison's proclivities, but these were not made to me personally. On one occasion, however, although I cannot remember the date, I was involved in a radio discussion in which the former Government minister Edwina Currie acknowledged that Morrison's behaviour was "an open secret" among many Conservative parliamentarians. In addition I have

been made aware in the course of my broadcast work of the allegations of two former Scotland Yard Detective Chief Inspectors, Clive Driscoll and Howard Groves, claiming that they were prevented by more senior officers from carrying on with investigations into alleged VIP child sex abuse.

Sensitive/Irrelevant

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

DPA

Dated:

14/1/2018

Sensitive/Irrelevant