

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: CURRIE, EDWINA

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

Occupation: RETIRED

This statement (consisting of 2 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: EDWINA CURRIE

Date: 10/09/2015

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

1503 - 1604 hours

On Thursday the 10th September 2015 I was visited at my home address by DC Tony SMITH and DC Mike STONEHOUSE of the Metropolitan Police to provide a statement in relation to Peter MORRISON MP and allegations of historic child abuse. The interview request was due to comments I made in my published journal of my political career, in reference to an incident in 1990 and also due to a comment I made in an interview in the Sunday Times newspaper in October 2012.

I was elected to Parliament 1983 as MP for South Derbyshire and held that role until 1997. I held various posts including PPS (aide) to the Secretary of State for Education, Junior Minister in the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) and also as a back bencher. I left the Health Ministry in 1988 after the salmonella food poisoning scandal. In the 1980's the Chief Whip was John WAKEHAM, whose wife was killed in the Brighton bomb in 1984. The subsequent Chief Whip was Richard RYDER. The role of the Whips' Office was party discipline. Part of their job is to know everyone's weaknesses.

I have been asked about my knowledge of Peter MORRISON MP. MORRISON was a colleague in Parliament and MP for Chester. Because I was MP for a nearby constituency I sometimes visited his constituency and I continued to help out his successor, Gyles BRANDRETH.

In late July 1990 Peter MORRISON was appointed as the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS). This was an unpaid role that acted as the eyes and ears for Prime Minister and it is likely that because of his family background MORRISON would good links with back bench members of the Conservative party. MORRISON's father had been Chairman of the 1922 committee and the family owned the island of

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Islay. The appointment of MORRISON as PPS came unexpectedly and as a surprise. If it had been discussed within the Whips' Office I'm sure there would have been objections. MORRISON was thought of as lazy and a drunk. He was unreliable. There was also gossip and rumour from the Whips' Office I don't remember exactly when or where I came to know of this information.

The rumour was that Peter MORRISON liked 'boys I took 'boys' to mean teenagers rather than children. There was no suggestion of force or rape. The nuances of Peter MORRISON'S relationships with boys would have been illegal owing to the age of consent in place for Homosexual relationships at that time. If he had been suspected of dealing with children I'm sure he would have been removed from office.

During my career I wrote a contemporaneous diary with the intention of recording what I believed to be a very significant period of British political history. On the 25th July 1990 I recorded in my diary that MORRISON had been appointed as Margaret THATCHER's PPS. I made the comment that Peter MORRISON was 'a noted pederast' I used the term to mean that he liked young people, up to the age of thirty. The term 'paedophile' was in use at the time, but to me this implied young children. By calling him a pederast I therefore meant that he liked young boys of sixteen upwards rather than being a paedophile who was a danger to children. In 2012 I was interviewed by The Sunday Times newspaper. In the article the journalist wrote that I believed that Peter MORRISON had sex with 16 year old boys. I was trying to clarify the illegality of it at the time because the age of consent was 21. I believe that MORRISON was a homosexual male who had sex with young adults, not children.

I also heard gossip that Norman TEBBIT in his role as Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party had been asked to speak with MORRISON about the rumours of his sexuality and sexual tastes. I believe this happened some years before 1990, likely in the mid 1980's. It may have been prompted by an incident outside of the realms of Parliament. I had heard that TEBBIT had confronted MORRISON who admitted that he was homosexual, but assured TEBBIT by saying, "however, I'm very discreet" I was not present for this conversation. If it did happen then I believe that MORRISON meant he was using male prostitutes, known commonly as rent boys. MORRISON was a very wealthy man. I don't believe he would have had any reason to use prostitutes from the street. If he believed he was able to be discreet I can only assume that he paid the rent boys, paid them well and looked after them.

I have no direct knowledge or recollection of Peter MORRISON ever being arrested for a sexual offence and I find it hard to believe that he would have put himself in that position. DC SMITH has explained the allegation to me about the journalist from the Sunday Mirror being told that MORRISON had been arrested

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in Soho for cottaging. I remember other MPs who had been accused of sexual offences around a similar time such as Harvey PROCTOR and Jeremy THORPE. These offences were not covered up and their careers suffered as a result of their actions. I therefore find it hard to believe that MORRISON was arrested or if he was that it was covered up.

It is likely that had MORRISON been arrested for any of the alleged offences I feel quite sure that support for him would have been withdrawn. Had they known about it, the Conservative Party in Parliament would likely not have wasted resources or risked its own reputation by protecting someone who did not deserve it.

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