

Witness Name:  
Statement No.: 1  
Exhibits:  
Dated:

## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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### Witness Statement of Dominic Simon Evelyn Carman

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I, **Dominic Simon Evelyn Carman**, will say as follows:-

1. My name is Dominic Simon Evelyn Carman. I am 57 years old and live in London. I am a writer and journalist for the national and trade press, and for international law firms.
2. For further information, please see my website: [www.dominiccarman.com](http://www.dominiccarman.com). I stood as a Liberal Democrat candidate in Barking at the general election in May 2010, and again at the Barnsley Central by-election in March 2011.
3. My late father was George Carman QC, who died on 2nd January 2001. It would be no exaggeration to say that, at the time of his death, he was the best-known barrister in Britain. Called to the Bar in 1953, he was appointed a QC in 1971, and became head of New Court Chambers in 1980. During the last 20 years of his life, he advised a significant number of prominent individuals: from Margaret Thatcher and Rupert Murdoch to Princess Diana and Elton John. In court, he acted for a range of celebrities, sportspeople, business people and politicians, and on behalf of assorted national and international media groups.
4. I was an only child and had a very close relationship with my father. I am also his biographer, having written *No Ordinary Man*, which was published in January 2002: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/No-Ordinary-Man-George-Carman/dp/0340820985>
5. For confirmation of our close relationship, please see the following article published by the Independent in September 1992: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/profile-excuse-me-while-i-take-you-apart-george-carman-qc-ultimate-inquisitor-1552375.html>



listening. Carefully formulating different themes in outline, he pursued them to their full extent in discussion. By evaluating the options, George reviewed the key evidence in great detail. Long passages were read out. 'What do you think?' he asked intermittently. You had to make sure that you were concentrating at all times. If not, he would respond impatiently: 'Do listen.'

10. Cyril Smith's name did not feature in any material way in the prosecution evidence (which I still have in my home), and although a Liberal parliamentary colleague of Thorpe from October 1972 onwards, he was not a personal friend. In fact, it was evident from discussions with my father that the two men did not like each other. Smith's name came up shortly before the trial as a result of the Rochdale Alternative Press story.
11. Further reproduction of the allegations in Private Eye concerned my father greatly. Although this was not the first time that he had become aware of the alleged abuse of boys by Smith - he had known about this for some years - the timing of the public revelation concerned him because of its potential to prejudice the case against his client. The reason was simple: it concerned another prominent Liberal MP, probably the best known public figure in the party apart from Thorpe and David Steel, who was then leader.
12. My father was annoyed, anxious and determined to shut the story down in the currency of the trial insofar as he was able. Professionally, he was not able to take any direct action himself in relation to the story. I believe that solicitors - although not Kingsley Napley who had retained my father to defend Thorpe - were used to prevent further publication. However, I do not know which firm. Although Lord Goodman may have been involved, I cannot be certain. From my father's perspective, the outcome was successful: the Smith story disappeared and was not resurrected, I believe, until after his death in September 2010.
13. In essence, what my father had previously been told (I do not know by whom, but it pre-dated instructions by Thorpe) echoed the story as outlined in the RAP. I cannot recall the detail, save to say that the substance of what he already knew was the same, i.e. serial abuse of young boys in Rochdale during the 1960s and 1970s. He told me that Thorpe and other senior Liberals had also previously been aware of these allegations.
14. I decided to speak with the Police in December 2012 after I was contacted by Rajeev Syal at the Guardian newspaper for comment about Smith, Thorpe and the