

Witness Name: Rt Hon Nicholas Brown MP

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: 1

Dated: 01/05/2018

**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**EXHIBIT [NB] / 1**

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In the weekend before Parliament reassembled I completed some detailed and comprehensive *Notes for the Guidance of Whips*, on which I had started work during a long illness in the previous year. The term 'Whip' was imported in the eighteenth century from the hunting field, where the job of the whipper-in was to keep the hounds from straying and, so far as our MPs are concerned, that remains the basic function of the Whips in Parliament in the late twentieth century – 'straying' in both the physical and political sense! But there is a good deal more to their work than maintaining discipline in the Party. Whips are also welfare officers who must make themselves aware of the personal problems of their Members and give whatever assistance they can, particularly where attendance at Westminster may be affected. Knowing about these problems can often avert the wrath of other Members when colleagues appear to be getting more than their fair share of time off. When I arrived at No. 12 I was told that it had been the practice to keep a 'dirt book' in which unsavoury personal items about Members were recorded. I gave strict instructions that no such book was to be kept in future.