

Witness Name: Donald Hale OBE
Statement No 2: 48 Pages
Exhibits: See notes below.
Dated: 29/12/18.

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

(Draft) Witness Statement of Donald Hale – Private and Confidential

I Donald Hale, of [DPA] (DOB [DPA]) will say as follows: -

This is my supplementary detailed response to a request for a witness statement and evidence revealed during my own investigations into alleged Child Sexual Abuse concerning high profile individuals and alleged links to a potential Westminster paedophile ring in the 1980s.

Reply to Question 6: Further matters relating to the above points: THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SECTION & I HAVE INCLUDED AS MUCH SUPPORT INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AS COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF AN OFFICIAL COVER UP.

14.0: Copy of Daily Mail article dated 12/11/14. In which I am mentioned: It confirms that a former Home Office civil servant Tim Hulbert became a whistleblower and told of government payments to PIE and support from the NCCL following orders from Special Branch – following my own revelations from Barbara Castle.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2831219/Government-gave-money-Paedophile-Information-Exchange-group-says-Home-Office-whistleblower.html>

14.1: The article states: Government gave money to notorious Paedophile Information Exchange on the orders of Special Branch, claims Home Office whistleblower.

14.2: A Home Office whistleblower today repeated his claims the government department funded the notorious Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) on the orders of the police.

14.3: Former civil servant **Tim Hulbert said money was transferred to the organisation on the orders of the Metropolitan Police's Special Branch.**

14.4: Mr Hulbert worked in the **Voluntary Services Unit of the Home Office which approved grants to various outside organisations in the late 1970s and early 80s.**

14.5: He said he went to his manager after seeing that funding was being given to PIE - the lobby group formed in the 1970s to campaign for a reduction in the age of consent - but his concerns were shrugged off.

14.6: The retired government worker told Radio 4's Today programme: 'Every quarter, the list of current grants that were up for consideration for financial support would be circulated through the office and I believe that I saw a copy of that which referred to the re-funding of PIE.

14.6: 'It was an organisation that was campaigning for the reduction of the age of consent to four. I thought that was inappropriate and outrageous and for a government department to be funding it, I thought was wrong.

14.7: 'I went to see my boss and he told me, firstly, that PIE was a legitimate campaigning organisation and it did have significant links to the National Council for Civil Liberties and other organisations that were recognised.

14.8: 'Secondly, **I was told that it was being funded at the request of Special Branch.**'

14.9: His claims come the day after a report by NSPCC boss Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC, which found it was impossible to say if 114 files linked to alleged Westminster child abusers had been destroyed as part of a cover up.

15.0: Home Secretary Theresa May said of the findings: 'It doesn't prove or disprove the Home Office acted appropriately in the 1980s.'

15.1: She added: '**There might have been a cover-up.**'

15.2: The report failed to rule out Mr Hulbert's claims that the Home Office directly awarded tens of thousands of pounds of public money to the PIE, noting that record keeping at the department was in disarray.

15.3: Mr Hulbert's comments followed claims by an investigative journalist that Home Office papers he saw - which suggested an investigation into the alleged child abuse ring was later carried out - were seized by Special Branch.

15.4: Don Hale yesterday revealed he was given a bundle of documents which included the identities of senior politicians who were actively promoting the Paedophile Information Exchange by the late Labour Minister Baroness Castle.

15.5: He said police later arrived at his newspaper office, pushed him against a wall and demanded to take possession of the dossier.

15.6: His claims are now being investigated by the Metropolitan Police.

15.7: The Home Secretary said of his claims: 'I recognise the allegations [Mr Hale] has made so my office has been in discussions with the Metropolitan Police today and the Metropolitan Police have agreed that they will now look into those allegations that have been made.'

15.8: CYRIL SMITH AND ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD PORN AT NORTHAMPTON

15.9: In addition to the three police statements sent to me by the CSA, I also took part in another interview with officers from Northamptonshire Police about the same time.

16.0: Primarily the police interviews related to allegations and stories reported at the time which alleged that Cyril Smith MP was stopped on the M1 motorway in the 1980s for driving without due care and attention and was found to have a boot full of child pornography.

16.1: It was said that Smith was then taken to a Northampton police station and his cargo was confiscated. He later phoned his Special Branch minder in London and he was released without charge. It was understood however, that the sensitive material was retained.

16.2: I gave the officers information about my own knowledge of this alleged event and details of a journalist with the Coventry Evening telegraph who investigated the claim at the time.

16.3: It was stated within the reporter's investigations that orders were given to destroy all records.

16.4: I was later advised, following my interview, that the police records were later found to have been blocked due to references to the security services.

16.5: THIS IS A COPY OF MY REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NORTHAMPTON ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CYRIL SMITH:

16.6: Northamptonshire police, who are carrying out a cold case investigation into the alleged cover up of a sexual incident involving the late liberal MP Cyril Smith, **say links to other intelligence services now prevents them from divulging any further details.**

16.7: The facts were revealed this week following a Freedom of Information (FOI) application from the local BBC radio station, who were told by officers, **‘they could neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information.’**

16.8: They also referred inquirers to Section 23(5) of an Act, which concerns ‘information supplied by, or concerning certain security bodies.’

16.9: Smith, who died in 2010, was said to have been pulled over on the M1 motorway over 30-years ago and found to have had a car boot full of explicit child pornography.

17.0: He was taken to a local police station and questioned with the items removed and placed in store.

17.1: Within an hour or so it is alleged that Smith then phoned his minders at MI5, who instructed special branch to demand his immediate release. Although he was escorted from the building without charge, it seems he was not allowed to reclaim his stash of pornography.

17.2: It is believed this later became a major issue but had not formed part of the initial release instructions. The material however, was later said to have disappeared without trace and eventually became the subject of a separate major inquiry.

17.3: Part of the story was also mentioned in campaigning MP Simon Danczuk and Matt Baker’s book about Smith published last year, but other potential witnesses including a former civilian worker at the police station and a former constable have provided additional details.

17.4: Over the past few years, hundreds of survivors have reported claims of sexual abuse against the heavyweight politician, and his name has also been linked to a child murder at the Elm Guest House.

17.5: Officers from several national operations are currently searching for alleged cine film and black and white photographs that were believed commissioned by, or taken by Smith of paedophile activities with other MPs and prominent people.

17.6: Smith was the subject of at least four major inquiries by Rochdale and Lancashire police from 1959 onwards and Jack Tasker, a retired detective who oversaw one of the latter investigations in 1979, claimed, ‘Smith was not only an abuser, but he was a supplier of boys.’

17.7: Former special branch officer Tony Robinson confirmed last year that all the inquiry and prosecution files relating to Cyril Smith were deliberately ‘buried’ in his secure safe at their Lancashire HQ for over four years.

17.8: He claimed **Smith was protected by the intelligence services for over three decades and became a ‘loose cannon,’ and should have been prosecuted but knew ‘too much’ and could have taken many other notable names down with him.**

17.9: Mr Robinson also confirmed that he later received a call from Box-500, the code name for MI5 demanding all Smith’s files were to be immediately taken to their control centre in London and have not been seen since.

18.0: The Northamptonshire force **refused to say which branch of the intelligence services they were referring to in their statement but mentioned other exemptions due to law enforcement**, personal information and ongoing inquiries.

18.1: CYRIL SMITH AND ABUSE ALLEGATIONS WITH A MINOR IN BIRMINGHAM

18.2: I also gave all visiting police officers details of another potential incident involving Cyril Smith MP when he was allegedly caught importuning for immoral purposes in a toilet in the centre of Birmingham – and literally caught with his pants down with an underage boy.

18.3: It seems the lavatories were known as a regular haunt for sex offenders and unknown to Smith, the place was under surveillance. This was said to be at the same time Smith was helping to defend his friend Jeremy Thorpe during a sex trial in the city and he was taken to a nearby police station.

18.4: it said the police were about to charge Smith with a string of sexual offences against a minor when he was allowed to make a call and contacted his Special Branch minder again, who instructed the officers to release Smith without charge and to destroy all records.

18.5: WHISTLEBLOWER SAYS POLICE TOLD TO LEAVE LEON BRITTAN ALONE

18.6: This is another of my important articles following a call from a former senior intelligence officer at Scotland Yard c2015.

18.7: A senior Scotland Yard official has claimed that Leon Brittan could and should have been interviewed under caution over historic allegations of child sex abuse, but says they were warned to 'leave him alone' due to his rapidly deteriorating health.

18.8: It is claimed the former Home Secretary and Tory peer, who died from cancer on 21st January aged 75, should have faced a raft of serious complaints from at least four survivors, including repeated allegations of multiple rape against one particular boy, from over forty-years ago.

18.9: The key source, who does not wish to be identified, confirmed that other allegations were put to him last year relating to claims he was involved in sordid activities with young boys at the Elm Guest House in 1982, and had a peculiar interest with rent boy orgies.

19.0: Information received by the Met from several ongoing nationwide child abuse inquiries suggests Mr Brittan's name, together with that of fellow MP Cyril Smith, and at least a dozen other politicians and people of prominence, appeared on secret documentation obtained, and suppressed by special branch officers.

19.1: Mr Brittan's name was identified within Operation Fernbridge inquiries, whilst similar child abuse allegations against former Liberal MP Smith, are recorded within Greater Manchester Police' Operation Clifton investigations, which also indicate he was once considered a suspect for an alleged child murder at Elm House.

19.2: The source said: "Leon Brittan was interviewed under caution last summer over allegations of rape against a teenage female student at his London apartment in 1967.

19.3: "He was not arrested but this inquiry remains open, and we hope to be able to continue with our investigations, but we also wanted to interview him over some additional allegations of abuse against several young boys.

19.4: "Complaints have been made by several men, who claim he abused them as children.

19.5: 'We believed we had sufficient evidence to question Mr Brittan under caution but were instructed 'from above' to 'leave him well alone,' and told he was 'on his last legs.'

19.6: "We were not happy about the outcome and believe he could have helped with our inquiries. It was said any further shock could have killed him."

19.7: Some similar claims of abuse were revealed and endorsed by Labour MP Tom Watson, last year, and again last month, when he agreed that he had spoken to two people who had allegedly been abused by Mr Brittan.

19.8: At the time of his death, Leon Brittan was also at the centre of controversy over a vital missing child abuse dossier submitted to him in 1983 by campaigning MP Geoffrey Dickens, who believed he had evidence of a paedophile ring within Westminster.

19.9: A revised search instigated recently by Home Secretary Theresa May, has since produced five important files revealed by the cabinet office, with one at least linking convicted paedophile Sir Peter Hayman, the former diplomat and security chief to a cover up by Maggie Thatcher's Conservative cabinet and to Leon Brittan.

- **20.0: OTHER LINKS TO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LEON BRITTAN:**

20.1: SENIOR TORY CAUGHT WITH CHILD PORN AT DOVER.

20.2: I also made mention of reports and investigations by other journalists, that it was alleged that (a senior Tory) Leon Brittan also had his car stopped at Dover after returning from the Continent, and he too allegedly had a boot full of child pornography.

20.3: The reports allege that he too was released 'scot free' after intervention by the security services, and that all records later went missing. It is claimed that at least one of the journalists involved in the story was warned about a threat to national security.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10944652/Tory-MP-allegedly-found-with-child-porn-in-1980s-faced-no-charges-police-told.html>

20.4: THE NEEDLEBLOG – AND DAILY TELEGRAPH: 26/1/15. It was stated that former Home Secretary Brittan was driving back to the UK from the continent when he a customs officer pulled him over because he was acting suspiciously

20.5: The Daily Telegraph story alleges that Leon Brittan had been caught trying to smuggle indecent images of children into Dover while he had been an EU Commissioner in the late 1980s. The Customs officer had made a clear and credible statement about stopping Brittan at Dover, and seizing child pornography tapes from him. The Customs officer stated that he viewed the tapes and was able to describe what was on them. This statement is, or should

be, still held at the Met Police station where the investigation was conducted. I believe it is essential that the CSA Inquiry is given a copy of this statement. **TIM TATE.**

20.6: There is another link to this same story and the alleged Westminster paedophile ring within this additional Daily Telegraph article 6/7/2014, and details about the Wanless inquiry. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10950111/The-alleged-paedophile-ring-at-the-heart-of-the-British-Establishment.html>

20.7: IMPORTANT RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS:

9.5: I believe there are some extremely important television and radio interviews that have been given by me to the BBC and LBC radio that should be heard in conjunction with my written evidence - and directly concern my allegations about a potential Westminster paedophile ring – and conversations by me with the late Dame Barbara Castle. Most of them were recorded between 3-4 years ago: I have attached the links electronically but they are all available via YouTube. *** PLEASE ALSO SEE EXHIBITS AB/1-5.**

**20.8: TACKLING THIS MYTH ABOUT D-NOTICES & RED HERRINGS.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE RESPONSE TO D-NOTICES AND 1984 RAID:**

20.9: Andrew Vallance from the Ministry of Defence made a written website reply dated 1/12/14 in which he confirmed:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/da_notices_index_and_other_infor

21.0: You asked for an index of the DA and D notices and letters issued about them to entitles-persons/corporations etc issued since 1970, including the dates, person/organisation issued to and what the notice and letter were about. Unfortunately, this is not possible. Firstly, because it would compromise the code of confidentiality between those directly involved (i.e. the DA Notice Secretary and the journalist or editor being offered DA Notice); this code underpins the DA Notice System and is the key to continued media confidence in the System. And secondly, because the sheer number of occasions on which DA Notice advice is sought by, and offered to journalists and editors, and the fact that most of this was and is done by word of mouth, would rule out such a comprehensive record. Moreover, comprehensive recording of Requests for advice is a relatively recent practice.

21.1: The D/DA Notice System has always been a voluntary compact between the national media and those Government departments responsible for aspects of national security (today: The Cabinet Office, Home Office, FCO and MOD). The System is now overseen by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC) – the so-called ‘D Notice Committee’.

21.2: The word ‘advisory’ in the title was added in 1993, but the System was from its inception in 1912 a purely voluntary arrangement. **The sole concern of the System is to prevent the inadvertent public disclosure of information which would damage UK national security.** That System is bounded strictly by the terms of the five Standing DA Notices, (available in full to the World on [1] www.dnotice.org.uk). The System has always stood above issues such as corruption, scandal, politics, embarrassment and reputation.

21.3: With these points in mind, I have several difficulties with the allegations that a D Notice was 'served' on Don Hale and others to prevent them reporting on the Elm House guest house and a 'powerful paedophile ring'. Firstly, there was no standing D Notice under which the then D Notice Secretary could offer advice on this issue (and the then Secretary alone was authorised to offer such advice on behalf of the DPBC). Moreover, (then and now) the Secretary was not authorised to create new D Notices, only to give advice within the guidelines of the existing standing D Notices. The protection of corrupt and criminal individuals (however highly placed) who were involved in child abuse would have fallen and still does fall well outside these guidelines. Secondly, then as now, the D/DA Notice System was a voluntary and non-statutory compact between Government and the media, and it has never been supported by any form of legal (or other) sanction. Hence, no judicial authority (judges, police etc) would have been empowered to act on behalf of the DPBC. Indeed, only the Secretary could give D Notice Advice on behalf of the DPBC, and his advice was just that; it could be accepted or rejected by editors.

21.4: Thirdly, we have searched our remaining files and can find no discussion of any kind about this issue at the time. **Given the then DPBC media-side's keenness to preserve media freedom, it is certain that this issue would have come to their attention (through the DPBC Secretary, Don Hale, Don Hale's editor, those others who were 'served' with purported D Notices, the regional newspapers' professional body, colleagues in the industry etc) and this would inevitably have triggered a vigorous debate in the DPBC.** But we know that that didn't happen, which is further confirmation that there was no valid D Notice involvement in these events. Fourthly, **although Don Hale and others have claimed that they were 'served with a D Notice' they have produced no hard-copy evidence of that.** Surely, given the importance they now attach to it (and which they claimed to attach to it at the time), they – or their respective newspapers - would have kept copies of the offending 'D Notice'? If the policemen 'serving the D Notice' refused to give them a copy, then surely that would have alerted them and their lawyers to the probability that this was not a legitimate legal action? That being so, why didn't they raise the issue to a far higher level at the time?

21.5: Our archived records for the period are admittedly incomplete, because some of the files have since been destroyed. However, the issue of file destruction is a red herring. The destruction of routine files is a standard practice throughout government, industry and commerce and is just good housekeeping: it avoids having warehouses full of worthless paper stored at public expense. **On the other hand, if files do contain very sensitive information they are always given very high security classifications.** Before such highly-classified files could be destroyed, they would be subject to special review procedures to ensure that files of historical significance were retained. Those files we have say nothing about this issue, and those that were destroyed were disposed of because they contained nothing of historical value. Yet it seems that the D/DA Notice System is being asked to prove a negative beyond all doubt. Such a thing is of course a logical absurdity. Hence, the real burden of proof must now lie with those making the allegations, and I suggest you might direct your further enquiries to them. **I do not rule out the possibility that pressure from some official source might have been applied to Don Hale and the others,** although I have no information (other than the statements made by Don Hale and others) that this did in fact take place. **But I do rule out (on grounds both of total lack of hard evidence and overwhelming across-the-board improbability) that this came in the form of valid D Notice advice.** On the other hand, if any of those who claimed to have been 'served' with a purported D Notice could provide us with a copy of it, then that would give us a lot more to work on. **We could find out from that document who authorised it, on what grounds it was authorised and – of course – whether indeed it purported to be a D Notice.**

21.6: MY KEY POINTS THEREFORE, IN RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL MOD REPLY:

1. **Index of D-Notices:** Unfortunately, this is not possible. Firstly, because it would compromise the code of confidentiality between those directly involved (i.e. the DA Notice Secretary and the journalist or editor being offered DA Notice).
2. **No records – word of mouth:** Because the sheer number of occasions on which DA Notice advice is sought by, and offered to journalists and editors, and the fact that most of this was and is done by word of mouth, this would rule out such a comprehensive record. Moreover, comprehensive recording of Requests for advice is a relatively recent practice.
3. **Protection of National Security:** The sole concern of the System is to prevent the inadvertent public disclosure of information which would damage UK national security.
4. **Vigorous Debate?** Given the then DPBC media-side's keenness to preserve media freedom, it is certain that this issue would have come to their attention (through the DPBC Secretary, Don Hale, Don Hale's editor, those others who were 'served' with purported D Notices, the regional newspapers' professional body, colleagues in the industry etc) and this would inevitably have triggered a vigorous debate in the DPBC.
5. **Hard Evidence copy required:** Although Don Hale and others have claimed that they were 'served with a D Notice' they have produced no hard-copy evidence.
6. **Archived Records Destroyed:** Our archived records for the period are admittedly incomplete, because some of the files have since been destroyed.
7. **Sensitive Information:** On the other hand, if files do contain very sensitive information they are always given very high security classifications.
8. **Pressure from some official source:** I do not rule out the possibility that pressure from some official source might have been applied to Don Hale and others.
9. **No hard evidence:** But I do rule out (on grounds both of total lack of hard evidence and overwhelming across-the-board improbability) that this came in the form of valid D Notice advice.
10. **Was it a genuine D-Notice if documentation existed?** We could find out from that document who authorised it, on what grounds it was authorised and – of course – whether indeed it purported to be a D Notice.

21.7: MY SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS OF MOD REPLY:

21.8: The official statement issued by the MOD both confirms and supports what I and other journalists have said about the use of D-Notices. Basically, they are admitting that the issue of any such notices are confidential, and even if they still retained the records of any D-Notices issued during the 1980s, they still wouldn't be allowed to either confirm or deny their issue, due to this confidentially ruling.

21.9: In addition, they also admit that many may not have been recorded anyway as some were simply made by 'word of mouth.'

22.0: They additionally confirm they were used to protect National Security, and claim they would have come to the attention of Don Hale's editor. **I WAS the editor!!**

22.1: The MOD agree and say they do NOT rule out the possibility that some official source may have applied pressure to me...and also question whether it was a genuine D-Notice warning as stated to me. i.e. whether it purported to be a D-Notice.

22.2: They also make issue of demanding a written copy of the 1984 D-Notice, when quite clearly, I have said that I was NOT handed one, and consequently did NOT read one, or was

able to keep a copy. I believe it was simply a ploy to scare me into handing over Barbara Castle's dossier and to frighten me into submission etc.

22.3: ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF POTENTIALLY FRAUDULENT USE OF D-NOTICES, AND A STATEMENT FROM D-NOTICE COMMITTEE MEMBER BOB SATCHWELL.

22.4: Following my revelations about the Special Branch raid and the matter of the questionable D-Notice presented to me at that time, I was later contacted by Bob Satchwell around 2014, who was then the executive director of the Society of Editors, who actually sat on the D-Notice committee.

22.5: He claimed to have sent a special report to the Met Police Commissioner earlier that year, outlining his specific concerns about the misuse or false D-Notices. He claimed the use of D-Notices was corrupt!

22.6: When asked about **dirty tricks employed by the Met Police and in particular Special Branch** during historical police investigations, and asked about the potential use of skeleton keys to secretly examine important premises, and **the use of false or forged documents – including search warrants and D-Notices**, he confirmed:

22.7: 'I do not doubt that police officers or others may have threatened people in the past. This was totally irresponsible to say the least. The police and security services don't issue them, therefore the threat of D-Notices could all be part of the cover-up in themselves.'

22.8: 'Misuse of the old D-Notice system and the current DA-Notice would be **a gross misrepresentation of the system and probably corrupt in itself**. The DA-system is a sensible way of protecting real threats, and I was personally threatened with prosecution in the 1970s about the exposure of a corrupt police chief.'

22.9: Mr Satchwell also said many committee officials agreed, that records covering this period in the mid 1980s had been lost or destroyed, but added and confirmed, that **even if they had the information, they may not have been allowed to reveal their contents due to reasons of confidentiality**.

23.0: One retired Special Branch operative – who wished to remain anonymous - also admitted to the use of fraudulent documents. He said, 'Our job was to protect the backs of MPs or prominent government officials, and we would do anything we could to achieve this aim.'

23.1: 'The false D-Notices and search warrants were an easy way used to frighten people – especially anyone who threatened to reveal secrets. We often went in mob-handed to put the fear of God into people.'

23.2: 'This was all part of our remit and the use of similar documentation was commonplace and formed part of our tools of the trade. We were often given all sorts of false papers, and even rubbed out the names of previous people mentioned in search warrants – or we were told to keep our thumbs over dates and/or signatures.'

- **23.3: PLEASE NOTE:** Further declarations about CSA and Cyril Smith are available from another former Special Branch officer – **Tony Robinson** – which are contained

within the exhibits section. Mention of Special Branch cover ups and dirty tricks are also included with statements and interviews with ex Flying Squad chief, John O'Connor and Jack Tasker, the detective in charge of the Cyril Smith re-investigations.

23.4: GUARDIAN D-NOTICE ARTICLE

23.5: The Guardian also ran an interesting article dated 2/8/15 about the alleged misuse of D-notices over the years and suggested it was about, 'slapping a D-Notice on something the establishment wanted suppressing.'

It also makes mention of my own situation from 1984, stating, 'Don Hale the ex-newspaper editor who investigated allegations of a paedophile ring in the 1980s, said he was threatened with a D-Notice by Special Branch, to make surrender an incriminating dossier. Since there is no evidence of such a notice, it seems detectives simply fabricated one to intimidate him.'

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/aug/02/d-notice-national-security-blackout>

23.6: DAILY BEAST ARTICLE & OTHERS

23.7: There is another informative article in the Daily Beast, dated 3/6/15 which contains many useful quotes and facts relating to my own recollections of the Special Branch raid and allegations of CSA by senior politicians. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-thatchers-government-covered-up-a-vip-pedophile-ring>

- 23.8: There are many other similar articles available online but at this stage I do not have the time to review all the documents. I would suggest a check to compare other quotes and details.

23.9: FLYING SQUAD CHIEF JOHN O'CONNOR CONFIRMS SPECIAL BRANCH ACTIONS

24.0: During a series of interviews carried out by me with **John O'Connor**, once a former commander of the famous **Flying Squad at Scotland Yard**, John readily confirmed the actions of Special Branch during the 1980s.

24.1: He said: '**Special Branch were a law unto themselves. They were the government's protection unit. They were totally ruthless – and a law unto themselves. They worked directly for their puppet masters at Westminster and above.**'

24.2: John also gave me evidence directly linked to the Westminster paedophile scandal. He added: 'I think it was in the early 1980s when there was a **strong rumour around Scotland Yard that there was a big paedophile ring in Westminster, and that a major investigation was highly likely.**

24.4: 'We remained on standby for something really special but then it just seemed to die a natural. Most cases in those days were based on geographical areas, but if any were linked to Westminster, they would have come under my jurisdiction.'

24.5: INTERVIEW WITH FLYING SQUAD CHIEF JOHN O'CONNOR ABOUT PAEDOPHILE LINKS TO POLITICIANS, HIS RESPONSE TO THE WANLESS INQUIRY AND LOST FILES, AND LATER ABOUT OWN EXPERIENCES OF MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS.

Interview with me c2014/5.

24.6: John O'Connor, the former head of Scotland Yard's elite Flying Squad has confirmed that rumours were floating about in the early 1980's that a paedophile ring was operating within Westminster, and says he was on 'standby' for a possible major investigation.

24.7: He has hit out at claims that historic government files have allegedly gone missing and believes the files may still exist, together with copies, and claims all the documentation would have been recorded in police archives to establish a paper trail.

24.8: John spoke of the role of Special Branch in the 1980's as a government protection unit believing they were ruthless and 'a law unto themselves, working for their puppet masters.'

24.9: He also criticised the response from former Home Secretary Leon Brittan who has admitted the existence of an important dossier about alleged Westminster paedophiles from former Rochdale MP, Geoffrey Dickens, and suggested: "Leon Brittan has a lot of questions to answer for."

25.0: He said: **Government files just don't go missing at that level. I am adamant that a paper trail, and archived copies can still be traced and identified."**

25.1: John, 71, a former commander at Scotland Yard, headed major Flying Squad operations and important CID investigations during that era.

25.2: He was once part of SO1 – Special Operations – covering the London central area and believes his department would probably have received any alleged evidence linking Westminster MP's and paedophile groups.

25.3: He confirmed: "I remember when this was first flying about. I think it was in the early 1980's - but then it just seemed to die a natural.

25.4: "There was a rumour floating around the Yard at the time that there was a big paedophile ring in Westminster and that a major investigation was likely.

25.5: "We were on standby ready for something really special, and if it had come to us the files wouldn't have gone missing, and would have been investigated."

25.6: John said **he wasn't too surprised when nothing further happened.** "It might not have come specifically to me, but they might have been passed onto someone I knew. It just never materialised.

25.7: "I wasn't too disappointed as it was just a rumour, and it wasn't something that I had any personal knowledge of. Scotland Yard received lots of rumours, and they didn't all have a basis of truth.

25.8: "Other events happened in later years and certain names were banded out but it was not something that I was personally involved with so I didn't feel any sort of neglect on my part as it never materialised.

25.9: He confirmed that paedophile claims in general were fairly common at that time but believes the police perhaps did not have the same appetite as with other cases.

26.0: John explained: **“In those days all paedophile claims were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), and you were given a time limit as to how far back you could go back.** For instance, you may be told not to go back before 1970. This happened in most cases.

26.1: “We could be visiting a children’s home to investigate claims of abuse from members of staff. This could lead to other claims from other kids, and gradually a picture emerges but you have to draw the line somewhere.”

26.2: He said investigations were based on geographical areas but added that if there were any claims relating to Westminster they would probably have come under his SO1, central area jurisdiction.

26.3: The ex-Scotland Yard detective with more than 30-years front line service, he is adamant the paper trail still exists – ‘if people bother to look for them’ – and says the files and data probably remain within historic police archived records.

26.4: He says copies must also remain and that information be easily crosschecked to establish whether anything is really missing.

26.5: John said: **“I believe the files will still be about somewhere. I think it will still be possible to get hold of some. If nothing else, the record of when each file as to when it was received will be recorded, and the contents of each file will be listed.**

26.6: “There must be a paper trail, or then they haven’t archived any correspondence which is suspicious, and it’s since been destroyed. I find that very hard to accept.

26.7: “Scotland Yard have a very professional archive system and the first port of call should be with their general registry. This will provide a master index to identify the file archive reference number and current location.

26.8: “I believe all the missing files had a reference number, **so information can be checked and verified.** If they find the details, then the police can still go back and take new statements.”

26.9: John says that apart from the **general archive, copies could have been retained at the storage facility at Hounslow or at the Public Records Office (PRO) at Kew.**

27.0: ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH FORMER FLYING SQUAD COMMANDER JOHN O’CONNOR ABOUT OTHER CSA INVESTIGATIONS

Interview with me c2014/15.

27.1: John O’Connor, the former head of Scotland Yard’s elite Flying Squad, **confirmed that he investigated several serious cases linking paedophile rings to children’s homes during the 1970’s and 80’s, and claimed it left many abused young victims traumatised and suicidal, and ‘destroyed’ their lives.**

27.2: He said that one particular care home near London, **had strong political links** and says that despite securing a conviction against the main instigator of abuse and the ring-leader, the perpetrator soon resumed his ambitions shortly after leaving prison, **even hoping to become a Liberal MP.**

27.3: Over three decades Mr O'Connor, 71, said he dealt with a host of serious crimes, robberies and murders, dealing with some of the toughest and most brutal characters of the day, but claims he was more 'shocked, surprised and horrified,' by the extent of child abuse during the 1970s and 80s.

27.4: He confirmed that in 1972, one notable children's residential home in Twickenham referred to numerous victims as 'chickens,' and said the home readily passed around vulnerable youngsters from the ages of 7 or 8 upwards, to be physically and sexually abused by members of an organised paedophile ring.

27.5: John explained: "One of the main organisers of all the kids at this home, and others, was a man called Justin Sillman, who worked with three or four other equally sick minded individuals, and a travelling paedophile, to arrange for boys to be frequently abused, and to be just handed from one to another.

27.6: "They were an awful bunch of people and the paedophiles preyed on these innocent and helpless kids. It was a paedophile ring within a group of children's care homes spread mainly across the London and southern region.

27.7: "Sillman, the head of this ring had an American or Canadian accent and came across at first as quite a plausible guy. He appeared as some sort of 'father figure' to the children, who trusted him, and at times they even fell in love with him.

27.8: "Once he had their trust he and/or others would sexually abuse and bully them, and once they had had their way, he would dump them, and move onto another poor victim.

27.9: "One poor lad was so traumatised after being abused that he started to become a nuisance to Sillman, so he transferred him to another establishment at Bristol, where he tried to kill himself by jumping off a roof.

28.0: "Fortunately he survived but it was hard for the kids to be believed, and their complaints taken seriously. They were just passed around from pillar to post, with information made readily available to other group members.

28.1: "Two lads who suffered horrific abuse, later came before me when I was head of the Flying Squad. They had committed an armed robbery, and claimed their lives had been totally destroyed by this man - and that school!"

28.2: John, who first worked as a detective inspector and later as a detective superintendent in the Barnes, Croydon and Twickenham areas on the outskirts of the city, said paedophile allegations and claims of sexual abuse were not something that was normally dealt with by him at senior level.

28.3: He added: "It was not something that I had dealt with much before but I was shocked and horrified at the extent and scale of abuse at this particular home, but despite a successful prosecution, the home continued in business.

28.4: "The main organiser, Sillman, who died a few years ago, initially came across as quite credible. He was heavily involved with the Liberal Democrats and local councils and

councillors, and many of the people involved with this organisation and abuse, were from the same political party.

28.5: "We eventually caught the gang and prosecuted several people, including Sillman, who spent a good few years in jail.

28.6: "When he came out however, he went straight back into politics, as did others, with some becoming involved with Hackney Council. Sillman even had aspirations to become mayor, and attempted to become a prospective Liberal MP."

28.7: Records show that Sillman was convicted of assaulting five boys aged between 12-15 years during the early 1970's and later became a self-proclaimed Liberal candidate for Hackney council in 1998 – but the party completely disowned him.

28.8: John also confirmed that he investigated other similar claims of sexual abuse at other children's homes but claimed it was very difficult to secure prosecutions against influential individuals, claiming defence lawyers would soon criticise the young victims' credibility as key witnesses.

28.9: He added: "In one remedial centre near Croydon in 1974, which had house mother's and father's and loads of kids seemingly enjoying a normal family atmosphere, a housemaster was accused of series sexual abuse.

29.0: "Although he was arrested and charged, we failed to secure a conviction because many of the children – both boys and girls - had mental health or other remedial and social issues.

29.1: "The courts were advised by defence solicitors of the 'poor quality' of victims, which is a horrible thing to say, but it affected their credibility and reliability as witnesses, and subsequently allowed many guilty men to escape justice."

30.0; In addition, I wish to submit several other key interview statements taken by me during the period 2013-2015, together with copies of surviving original paperwork as evidence discovered during my own investigations: Some refer to exclusive interviews with:

1. **Jack Tasker** – the detective in charge of re-investigation into the allegations of CSA against the late and former MP Cyril Smith. EXHIBIT AB/6. He gives extensive details of a deliberate cover up by GM police during the 1980s and of threats to keep his mouth shut by senior officers.
 2. **Tony Robinson** – a former Special Branch officer – who gives details about the cover of Cyril Smith and confirmation that the prosecution file listing all the details of several extensive police inquiries was held by him in the SB safe in Blackburn for several years prior to being handed over to MI5. He also tells of threats made to him by the security services after revealing details to me. Both **Jack Tasker and Tony Robinson** were warned and threatened about speaking out over Cyril Smith.
 3. **SIMON DANCZUK** – Former Rochdale MP who also investigated Cyril Smith. Under threat from the establishment after revealing details about Smith.
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30.2: EX-ROCHDALE DETECTIVE JACK TASKER: ALLEGATIONS OF A COVER UP!

30.3: These are some copies of my exclusive interviews with **Jack Tasker** – a retired detective with Greater Manchester Police – who was the officer in charge of a major re-investigation into the activities of Cyril Smith MP during the late 1960s and 70s.

30.4: Ex-Detective Constable Jack Tasker claims Smith was not only a paedophile but was a supplier of boys to other like-minded individuals and says he was protected by Special Branch. He has provided testimony of several police cover ups relating to the investigation of serious sexual allegations against Cyril Smith.

30.5; I have included several interviews with him made during 2014-16. He claims he was ready to prosecute Smith for a series of paedophile crimes but says his work was confiscated by a senior officer – and he was threatened and told to forget about everything.

30.6: This is the first basic interview and details of my notes c2014/15 with ex detective Jack Tasker in charge of the Cyril Smith review inquiry:

30.7: INTERVIEW ONE: NOTES PRIOR TO MAIN INTERVIEWS:

30.8: Jack Tasker: 'I was on taskforce CID, a Serious Crime squad based at Oldham. I worked with another DC Tom Courtney. We went into Oldham one day and was approached by Derek Wheeler who was a DCI.

30.9: 'He told us how they had tried twice to nail Cyril Smith whilst members of Rochdale Borough Police. This was prior to 1969, this conversation was after the amalgamation, and he said it had been blocked both times by the Chief Constable of Rochdale.

31.0: 'We were asked to investigate Cyril Smith and allegations of child sexual abuse. Wheeler said that being strangers in Rochdale we would be able to work under the radar. We went on and interviewed all the names of boys that we saw. There were about eight lads in total but obviously, **we didn't slip under the radar as Cyril suddenly found out.**

31.1: 'It was not too difficult then because his mother was a cleaner at the police station.

31.2: 'It was very handy for him and she used to be there in the morning and would clean the stairs and the offices. This was when we were at the town hall as the new police station hadn't been built.

31.3: 'We got everything ready and put all the statements together and it was at the report stage to hand in. Then we had a murder - and at that stage, with any murders in Lancashire the serious crime squad were brought in.

31.4: 'It got delayed a little, and anyhow the murder was finished and we had an office at Whitefield police station and we used to work alternative weekends, Tom and myself, and what happened was when I got in the station, they said there's a Supt and a Chief Supt from (Special Branch) upstairs waiting. I asked where they were from and he said Hutton.

31.5: 'I went upstairs and didn't knock because it was my office, and I just walked in and one of them asked – who are you? I saw their warrant cards but one thing I didn't check was whether it was Lancashire Constabulary.

31.6: 'They sat down and said I believe you've been working on an inquiry about councillor Cyril Smith. Because he was then just a councillor. I said yes, they asked where DS Courtney was, I said he was on his way and would be here shortly.

31.7: 'They asked where all the material was and I said in that drawer. He tried the drawer and I said it's locked, so he said open it, and I unlocked it. He said take everything out that relates to this inquiry so I took it all out.

31.8: 'He said I don't mean just the statement I mean every scrap of paper, every note you've made the lot.

31.9: 'Then Tom walked in at that stage and I told him what was happening and **they collected everything up and we were under threat that we would be under prosecuted if we retained anything, or if we went anywhere near the inquiry. They said they were taking it over.**

32.0: '**They told us we would be back in uniform if anything goes wrong.** I said we should ring our boss. They said you can phone who you like but we're on instructions from the chief constable. **They took everything away and that was it.** We never heard another thing!

32.1: 'I think it was all resurrected later again – Jack Watson and Geoff Leach did it.

32.2: 'Leach was my immediate boss. He never mentioned it to us. About 3-4 weeks after this, me and Tom were split up. I went to Bury and he went to Middleton.

32.3: 'I understand it was all resurrected again a few years later, and **I was shown a report by Leach which mirrored the one we had done and reached the same conclusions. It turned out that their report, like ours, was also blocked.**

32.4: **INTERVIEW TWO c2014/15: This was a follow up to my first basic interview with ex-detective jack Tasker.**

32.5: '**I always thought that Cyril Smith was not just a paedo but a supplier. He may have been supplying kids for a lot of powerful people.** And it makes you wonder why he left the Labour party as he was then as he was the Mayor of Rochdale but NOT a Labour Mayor.

32.6: 'He left the Labour party and went to the Lib Dems. I always got the impression he was a supplier and maybe that was why he was protected? And why he eventually left Labour and went into the Liberal party. That was the impression we were building up.

32.7: 'We got written statements from the victims but they went with the files but they were probably used again in the files that Watson and Leach. The boys were all from Cambridge House. This place closed after our inquiry and Knowl View was built.

32.8: '**Smith just transferred his allegiance to Knowl View but these lads were at Cambridge House. We interviewed about 8-9 victims. The kids had been to Rochdale police originally and complained.** Derek Wheeler and Fred Walsh had taken up the inquiry twice. The CC of Rochdale blocked it.

32.9: 'The kids then were about 18-19 but this abuse had been over a long period of time probably from they were 10-12, all boys. Strictly he batted for the other side. It was boys he was into rather than girls.

33.0: 'I have never come across anything like this before. In those days, it was an unknown commodity but was probably more-rife than we will ever know. The thing was you didn't get complaints, did you?

33.1: 'There was a suspected murder at that Elm View and I know that Cyril was a regular visitor there. This came up in interviews with another officer that I knew.

33.2: 'Regarding the Jack Watson file: - I should imagine the statements were done by Tom and myself. These were original statements and I understand it languished in a Special Branch safe at Hutton. That was ridiculous because it was absolutely not in their remit.

33.3: 'It was a CID job and had nothing to do with Special Branch but I suppose that if you wanted to lose it was a good place to keep in their safe.

33.4: 'I got the impression that he could possibly have been a big player for his own gratification as well and as I said these lads spoke of going to different places, and if he's doing that it's not for personal reasons but for other people. I got that impression that was happening didn't put that in the report because I couldn't prove it at that time.

33.5: 'That the impression I got and I think at that time there was a lot of sleaze with the Liberal party. I had no contact with Geoffrey Dickens. Communications weren't that good in those days and it took a long time to sort things out.

33.6: 'Nowadays, for something like this to come along was most unusual. If we had been told, we're taking over the inquiry, and we want you to work with us, we would have accepted that, because at that stage we obviously knew a lot more about it than they did.

33.7: 'We were threatened to keep quiet and not to pursue this any further. The thing was it was most unusual and it kind of stuck in my craw really, and for years I've tried to get this going. I have emailed, and telephoned various newspapers over the years.

33.8: 'We were told we would be back in uniform, Tom and I, and we were later split up. Could be coincidental? Two DCs working together without supervision.

33.9: 'I interviewed Smith at Rochdale police station which was then at the Town Hall. His final words were – this will kill my mother – **He didn't deny everything.**

34.0: '**He admitted, I had to administer corrective justice. I said did that mean them taking their clothes off?** He had no right to administer anything. That's what we told, we said what right had you to do anything, you're not an official, you're not in charge. No right to do it at all!

34.1: 'We didn't interview him again and the file went after that.

34.2: 'I think we would have convicted him. He was sweating profusely and very, very nervous. I think he would have cracked and they wouldn't allow it to go there. He was later interviewed with Tom, and he had a solicitor with him.

34.3: 'I heard about MP Simon Danczuk bringing this up in Parliament so I contacted him. It used to play on my mind and when Smith appeared on telly, I used to get up and switch it off.

34.4: 'He had a wonderful network of people who protected him. The key source then could have been his mother.

34.5: 'It was always my impression that he was a supplier. A supplier as well as being a full-blown paedophile. I think that was when we started. He mentioned it and jungle drums started banging - and they said we've got to stop this.

34.6: 'It took some powerful people to stop it. 35-years in police force. I retired in 1987, as DS. I am now aged 82.

34.7: 'I will do anything to bring this to a head. They are still covering it up. They have tried twice and the people in charge of the inquiry shouldn't be there. If it's left, it will just die a death again.

34.8: 'Once they lift that scab of Cyril they wonder what will crawl from underneath. It makes you wonder and how high he is going to go. There is a code of conduct and Mr Danczuk has blown that code.

34.9: 'It has stirred-up can of worms, and brought problems, with only one MP still speaking. It shows you the trend of thinking in that place. The other MPs don't want to know. It is a deliberate cover up. No doubt about it at all.

35.0: 'I know that from the time. We were quite stunned. We just sat there when they disappeared with all the files. We were wondering what it's all about. We were being threatened because you'd done your job.

35.1: 'Every scrap of paper with his name on it. We would have accepted that if they wanted to work with them. It wasn't very nice at the time and I've been retired 20-odd years but every now and again it comes up and I think, well I'd like to see justice done.

35.2: 'What really does me was what those lads must have thought we were going through the motions with no intentions of doing our job. That was the bit that's stuck in my crawl.

35.3: 'They didn't know the pressures that we were getting. Just transferred from the borough force to Lancashire. They thought the police had let them down, that was the attitude with them. Oh, you're here again, we're making these statements, but we know you'll do nothing!

35.4: 'We were doing our job with every intention - and you think that's wrong. Some boys are still alive. They probably still think that. We wanted to pin Cyril to the mast. I doubt whether they'll ever be a conclusion to all this. **I often thought it would have brought government down at the time.** Anywhere there were boys - there was Cyril! He was always round kids was Cyril, and if he was supplying, he would be travelling about.

35.5: 'He even went to a wedding of one of the lads he abused uninvited. I suppose the lad was still frightened of him. They called him Mr Rochdale and **he practically ran the borough. He was running the Chief Constables office too really.**

35.6: 'He was a big bombastic bully. He soon started off thinking he could bully us too but soon found out he was wrong. I think there were plenty high up and got away with it for so

long. **Others knew in Parliament a terrible code when they talk about democracy.** Not to do anything about it. It stinks really. People have kept their mouths shut.

35.7: **'The Smith file and people at the top of tree have suppressed it all.** You're hitting a brick wall with people like that. It was so frustrating and I hope I will live to see a conclusion.

35.8: 'I am sorry Saville came along because they have used him as a smokescreen for Cyril. Every time I have spoken about something the next day in the papers, Saville this and that – but we have already dealt with Saville.

35.9: 'I tried papers everywhere but no one wanted to know. Only time when Danczuk stood up in Parliament. I saw your article bit and about you being threatened. I could just see him threatening you. He was a big fella!

36.0: 'He started that with us and got slapped down. **I told the News of the World! It's was a real pity that they were frightened of breaking this code to protect paedos.**

36.1: 'A lot of people are still alive who were involved with Cyril Smith, and let's face it you don't have to be 60 or 70 to be a paedo, it usually starts much younger if that's in your nature.

36.2: 'Many people were much younger than Cyril. Its' frightening but let's face it, **it's still going on. Because it involves people at the top and will not be stopped.'**

36.3: INTERVIEW THREE: This was a follow up to my other exclusive interviews with ex-detective Jack Tasker regarding Cyril Smith, c2014/15.

36.4: Police inquiries into the historic paedophile activities of former politician Cyril Smith confirm he was first investigated by detectives' way back in the late 1950's when he worked at a Rochdale newsagents.

36.5: Smith was then just a local Labour councillor then, but his sordid record of abuse with young boys at a variety of children's homes has now been re-discovered within police files from nearly 60-years ago.

36.6: All police and potential prosecution files were said to have been suppressed at the time following intervention from special branch officers, but now a new task force from Greater Manchester Police, working under Operation Clifton, are examining all allegations of a specific cover-up over Smith's deprived abuse.

36.7: The full details of his early sexual activities were first investigated by Jeff Smith, a former officer with the old Rochdale Borough force in 1959, and support additional reports by ex-detective sergeant Jack Tasker, 82, who headed a similar inquiry into child sex abuse some ten years later with Lancashire Police.

36.8: Mr Tasker's own comprehensive investigations included an admission of sexual abuse by Smith, and followed a succession of serious complaints from several youngsters who attended a boys' care home, **who provided compelling prosecution evidence that was later suppressed by special branch.**

36.9: This week, he confirmed: **'We obtained written statements from the victims. They all came from Cambridge House and we interviewed about 8-9 boys.**

37.0: 'These kids had originally gone to the police station to complain. Cambridge House was closed down after our inquiry but Smith just transferred his allegiance to Knowl View.

37.1: 'He was always around kids and always into boys, never girls. The victims were then aged about 18-19 but had suffered years of abuse by him.

37.2: 'We interviewed Smith who admitted most things and said, **'he had to administer corrective justice.'** I asked him, **did that mean taking their clothes off, and spanking them?**

37.3: 'I told Smith that he had no right to administer anything. I said he was not an official at that home, he was not in charge, and had no right to be there. He had tried to bully us but we soon slapped him down.'

37.4: A short time after the interview, Jack said Smith even turned up at the wedding of one of his former teenage victims to show him he was still 'untouchable.'

37.5: "He was telling the lad he knew what he had said. Smith was definitely not invited but deliberately went there to boast, and to frighten him. He was telling the lad he had got away with it again."

37.6: Jack also claimed Smith, who went on to become the town's mayor, was not only an active paedophile, but says he was also a major supplier of boys to prominent people and was once identified and interviewed as a possible murder suspect over serious allegations linked to the Elm Guest House in London.

37.7: He added: **'Smith was a big, bombastic bully, who had a wonderful network of people protecting him, and it was always my impression that he was a supplier, as well as being a full-blown paedophile.**

37.8: **'I doubt whether there will ever be a conclusion to all this, but have often thought that at the time it could have brought the government down. They all knew about it, but all did nothing.**

37.9: 'It wasn't very nice at the time and although it's 20-years or more since I retired, I would still like to see justice done, as I thought we had let these victims down.

38.0: 'For many years later, I couldn't watch Cyril Smith on the telly. Just to see his evil face made my stomach turn and I had to switch it off. **It was so frustrating to have our file suppressed. It was like hitting a brick wall.**

38.1: **INTERVIEW FOUR: c2015: This was taken following a call from Jack Tasker regarding allegations concerning the former Liberal MP Clement Freud. It also includes confirmation from ex Special Branch operative Tony Robinson, who saw all the police prosecution files and retained them in his safe for several years. In addition, it introduces a potential Soviet threat at the time of the Cold War.**

38.2: A retired detective who heard paedophile politician Sir Cyril Smith confess to abusing young boys in care in 1979, says he was prevented from investigating further claims linked

to other politicians and VIP's, claiming special branch and government departments deliberately covered things up.

38.3: Jack Tasker, 84, has spoken out this week following the revelation that Smith's fellow Liberal and Westminster office partner Sir Clement Freud, has also been accused of paedophile activities.

38.4: An experienced detective sergeant with the Lancashire force for over 30-years, Jack interviewed Smith several times including the day he admitted spanking naked boys' bottoms to 'administer justice.'

38.5: He explained: **'I investigated Smith nearly 40-years ago but and he knew then it would all be covered up, and that even the press couldn't touch him.** There's probably a lot covered up too about Freud and Smith and others as there is much to hide.

38.6: **'I am convinced special branch and government departments were complicit and feel there are still many live connections out there. It now seems they want people to fall down dead before they do anything.'**

38.7: He confirmed that Smith was the subject of at least four major police inquiries from 1959 onwards, and claims he was not only an abuser – but a regular supplier of innocent young boys to other VIP's.

38.8: Yet, as he prepared a prosecution file, Jack says he was then prevented from continuing with his role and **threatened with demotion, or even the sack, if he continued with his inquiries or repeated his findings.**

38.9: He explained that several young boys came to him with serious abuse accusations which were not denied by the heavyweight politician, who he said later turned up at a victim's wedding to threaten him, and to let him know he had got away with it.

39.0: Jack said: 'Smith was a real horror who admitted most things and was even allowed to come and go as he pleased at Buckley Hall detention centre. He had his own room and keys, so he could abuse young boys at will, both there and at Cambridge House.

39.1: "He said it was his job to administer justice and he took great pleasure by admitting to spanking many naughty boys. He knew he was untouchable."

39.2: Jack later said his superiors confiscated all his files and instructed him to forget everything as there would be no prosecution for Smith. His colleague was suddenly transferred away and Jack was warned to keep his mouth shut.

39.3: He added: 'It still sticks in my craw that Smith was so ring fenced. I read recently that he was only accused like others after his death but this is wrong. We had evidence against him dating back to 1959.'

TONY TOBINSON FROM SPECIAL BRANCH

39.4: Former special branch officer Tony Robinson, 82, who covered the North-West region during that same period, confirmed Jack Tasker's claims and admitted **Smith was 'definitely protected.'**

39.5: Speaking extensively to me last year, he claimed the plan back-fired and that Smith became a **'loose cannon,'** and that **his prosecution files were deliberately hidden in his secure intelligence safe at his Blackburn HQ for years,**

39.6: Tony said: 'If Smith had been charged and convicted **he would have taken many people down with him – and maybe even the government!** He knew too much so the files were **'buried.'**

39.7: 'This was a critical time when many vulnerable people of note had to be quickly identified and monitored. This was my role and we kept many important MP's under surveillance.

39.8: 'Smith's police files were actually prosecution ready documents. **They were packed with victim and witness statements with police reports** but had been marked, 'no further action,' or 'not in the public interest.'

39.9: Tony confirmed he eventually received a call from **Box-500, the code name for MI5** demanding that all Smith's files were to be immediately taken to their control centre in London and have never been seen since.

40.0: **Another retired intelligence source also admitted that Smith and many other key politician's names had been included within a special protection portfolio for decades,** and said that despite being officially under surveillance, many continued to abuse children.

40.1: **He says secret historic reports suggest the intelligence services gave Smith a free reign, as they were desperate to know who else was vulnerable to potential blackmail threats from Soviet or foreign agents at a crucial time during the Cold War.**

40.2: Our source also believes that several incidents were linked to rent boys, prostitution and sexual exploitation, which he claims were secretly recorded.

40.3: He added: 'Many politicians were closely watched and filmed. The Soviets' used sex as a means of blackmail and employed many devious methods to try to trap individuals.

40.4: 'We had to know what was going on and it worked both ways for us and the Russians.'

40.5: OTHER STATEMENTS FROM EX SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICER TONY ROBINSON – REGARDING CYRIL SMITH: c2013-15.

40.6: **Initial copies of my notes and draft interview with Tony Robinson, a former Special Branch officer who was based at Hutton, Lancashire, in the 1980s.**

40.7: Former Special Branch detective Tony Robinson. Spent 27 years with the police including 18 years with special branch. He first joined the police in Bury. 'Very exciting years. It was an age of industrial strife, militants and subversion. Plenty of interest.' He believes SB had a security staffer at the BBC HQ. Probably an undercover position. 'SB were well-aware of Jimmy Savile.'

40.8: Dealing with a subversive element. 'When a file was brought to my attention at HQ. Regarding Cyril Smith as far as we were concerned Smith's file was a criminal file – not a

political file. Don't get me wrong, it was disgusting but we had no interest, as it was not within our remit.

40.9: 'It was put there deliberately to hide it. What other reason could there be?

41.0: 'In 1969 when police act came in and county forces started taking over all previous little police forces. They were run by a sort of Masonic mafia and we all kept quiet. When Lancs Police took over, they started to clean up.

41.1: 'In 1970/71 with the original inquiry, Smith was not an MP just a local councillor. I was based at SB offices in Widnes. Detective Chief Supt Jack Watson came to see me he wanted to borrow some listening devices and **said he was investigating claims of sexual abuse by Cyril Smith.**

41.2: 'Watson wouldn't have done inquiries himself but Watson would have been responsible. Political implications came about from a lot of people.

41.3: 'In 1974 moved to police HQ at Hutton, near Preston.

41.4: 'I had access to our safe and secure stores. I was a Det Sgt at SB. I had access to all records. One of key people responsible. I moved from Widnes to Hutton.

41.5: 'In 1977/78, the Cyril Smith file – used to sit here and I had a look through it. It was ready for prosecution, signed statements, typewritten documents, and statements of facts. On front of file – **No further action. Not in public interest from DPP.** Think it must have been Jack Watson's file.

41.6: 'I received a call from the Secret Service (MI5) in London asking about this particular file. They wanted it taking to them by personal courier. I think it was Det Supt Leach who handed it over. All papers were confiscated. Never seen again. I took the phone call and that was last I heard of it.

41.7: 'Dealing with errant MPs – the security services would be eligible for potential blackmail attempts.'

41.8: INTERVIEW TWO – TONY ROBINSON – SPECIAL BRANCH. C 2014. This was one of many exclusive interviews taken by me with this former officer - who was later threatened for speaking out about his role.

41.9: A retired Special Branch (SB) officer who found a compelling criminal prosecution file on paedophile Cyril Smith and links to Westminster child abuse 'deliberately hidden' within a safe at his northern headquarters in 1974, says **part of their remit was to spy on, and protect politicians from potential blackmail attempts.**

42.0: Ex-detective Tony Robinson, 81, admits that his role with SB throughout the 1970's and 80's dealt with **more political than criminal elements, assessing incidents of political turmoil, exposing militants, and investigating claims of subversion.**

42.1: He said: 'They were exciting years and it was at the height of the Cold War where **politicians who may have been vulnerable to blackmail were identified.** We had to monitor quite a few northwest MP's and people with strong political links.

42.2: Mr Robinson confirms that he was first told about allegations of Cyril Smith's sexual abuse and paedophile activities about four years earlier in 1970, when detective chief superintendent Jack Watson came to his district office in Widnes asking to borrow some recording equipment to monitor a meeting to be attended by Smith.

42.3: The politician, who died in 2010, was accused of numerous serious sexual incidents over decades, all allegedly covered up by either Special Branch or other security services, including claims of Smith performing a sex act with a youth in a Birmingham city centre toilet, and of police in Northampton finding his car boot full of explicit child pornography.

42.4: Mr Robinson agreed the files in his possession were packed with detailed information about numerous similar incidents and requests for police not to intervene.

42.5: An experienced police officer with more than 27-years loyal service including 18-years with Special Branch, Mr Robinson explained: **'The senior officer told me he was investigating claims of sexual abuse on young boys by Cyril Smith and wanted to borrow some listening devices to help with his inquiry into Smith's behaviour.'**

42.6: 'I didn't have what he wanted but I knew he was a highly skilled officer. I didn't know anything about Smith. He wasn't even an MP then, just a local councillor, and was also on some school boards or trusts.'

42.7: 'I don't think Watson would have done the investigation himself as he was a very senior officer but he would have been responsible for the inquiry. **He told me about the case and said it was all highly confidential at that time** – but that was the last I heard of it – at least for many years.'

42.8: Smith was then a high-rising political figure in Rochdale who was first elected as a Member of Parliament for his hometown at the 1972 by-election.

42.9: Mr Robinson, now living in retirement in Bridport, Dorset, knew the Lancashire area very well, and first joined the police in neighbouring Bury. He followed Smith's rapid climb with interest and noted he became an influential member of the Liberal Party, and a major House of Commons activist on key issues.

43.0: In 1984, Smith also visited a newspaper office in Bury trying to prevent publication of claims of a paedophile ring within Westminster, which later embroiled Special Branch officers from London in a major restriction exercise. Papers seized in the raid have since been destroyed or classified under the 'Official Secrets Act,' including a list of 16 linked MP's and Peers.

43.1: Other serious issues relate to historic sexual abuse allegations at two Rochdale schools, and other incidents reported by current Rochdale Labour MP, Simon Danczuk and Matt Baker, who have co-authored a book on Smith's other alleged sordid activities.

43.2: Mr Robinson added: 'There was always something going on, with plenty to interest, but the next time I saw anything to do with Cyril Smith was about four years later in 1974, when I was relocated to our new headquarters at Hutton, near Preston.'

43/3: 'As a detective sergeant, I had access to our SB safe and security stores, and one day when I was rooting through some papers, I came across a file with Cyril Smith's name on it. It was put there deliberately to hide it – what other reason could there be?'

43.4: 'It was obviously Smith's prosecution file compiled by DCS Jack Watson, the senior officer I had spoken with many years before. It was definitely a police file, and had absolutely nothing to do with us.'

43.5: 'As far as I was concerned it was a prosecution ready file – not a political file. I couldn't understand why we had it, apart from to hide something, but it was of no interest to special branch. Don't get me wrong, it was disgusting but it was not within our remit.'

43.6: Mr Robinson confirmed: "It was packed full of papers, with signed statements, typewritten documents, a statement of facts, and on the front of the file it was stamped 'No further Action,' and 'Not in the Public Interest,' with notes from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

43.7: 'It was then the penny dropped and I suddenly realised why it was given to Special Branch, as it was liable to be a political hot potato, and we were just to keep the file for safe keeping.'

43.8: Mr Robinson explained that in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Police Act changed the format of local policing with county forces taking over from smaller establishments.

43.9: He said: 'Some had been run by a sort of Masonic Mafia in those days with everything kept quiet. When Lancashire took over they started to clean things up.'

44.0: It was later accepted however, that the then DPP, Norman Skelhorn had contacted Lancashire's chief constable claiming he did not consider there were suitable grounds to prosecute Smith.

44.1: The file remained under lock and key in the Special Branch offices for another few years, although Mr Robinson admitted: 'We used to sit and have a look through it. It was fascinating stuff.'

44.2: He claimed the safe also contained files on many other MPs, but agreed that nothing else happened until he received a phone call from (Box 500) the code name from a senior MI5 senior intelligence officer in 1977, who asked him: 'I understand you are holding a file on Cyril Smith?'

44.3: Mr Robinson acknowledged the existence of the file and was ordered to send it immediately to their offices in London by personal courier. **He said: 'All the papers were to be confiscated. I offered to go but was not authorised and I think it was my boss Detective Superintendent Leach who went.'**

44.4: 'Although I had taken the call, I never heard or saw the contents of the file again. I was surprised by the outcome but the security services were often dealing with errant MP's who may have been eligible for potential blackmail attempts.'

44.5: INTERVIEW THREE – TONY ROBINSON – SPECIAL BRANCH. C 2014.

44.6: Tony Robinson, the former Special Branch detective **threatened by police for daring to speak out to me about the Cyril Smith files from decades ago**, has given details to campaigning Labour MP Simon Danczuk in support of his quest to gain an amnesty for former officials with knowledge of historic sexual abuse.

44.7: Mr Robinson, 81, who claimed he was **'shocked and stressed'** following a warning call from an officer at his former headquarters at Hutton, this week spoke with Mr Danczuk's assistant Matt Baker, the co-author of their award-winning book, Smile for the Camera – the double life of Cyril Smith.

44.8: He noted the recent House of Commons debate led by Mr Danczuk the Rochdale MP, and supports his plan to help protect whistleblowers. **Mr Robinson, who served the force for nearly 30-years believes the government must investigate all alleged sexual abuse links to prominent politicians.**

44.9: The retired investigator, who found **Smith's prosecution file 'deliberately hidden'** in his Special Branch safe in 1970, welcomed the offer to outline his concerns to the MP and his team, and explained: "I believe the police and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) were complicit in hiding a crime.

45.0: 'It was packed full of papers, with signed statements, typewritten documents but was stamped 'No further action,' and 'Not in the public interest.'

45.1: 'It was clearly a detailed police file and linked to a conversation I had had a few years earlier with the officer in charge, detective chief superintendent Jack Watson. **It was then the penny dropped and I suddenly realised why it was given to us. It was liable to be a political hot potato, and we were just to look after it for safe keeping.'**

45.2: He said that four years later in 1994, he took a call from 'Box 500' the code name for MI5, and was ordered to take this file to the security services in London. **He was not authorised, so his boss, detective superintendent Leach went and handed over the paperwork. It has not been seen since.**

45.3: Mr Robinson says that in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Police Act changed and the format of local policing with county forces taking over from smaller authorities. He added: 'Some had been run by a sort of Masonic Mafia in those days with everything kept quiet.

45.4: 'When Lancashire took over, they started to clean things up. They really went to town and did a good job. They had a real go but things were still 'squashed' from above.'

45.5: He believes recent activity into Cyril Smith's activities and alleged links to the Westminster paedophile scandal have again triggered renewed concerns, and forced police to warn off any potential whistleblowers.

45.6: He confirmed: 'I took this call as a threat. I was so taken aback. Why would he phone me out of the blue at this stage, and after all these years? I was rather disturbed by this call from a police sergeant at my old headquarters.

45.7: 'I wondered what it was all about? He was asking me a lot of questions about Simon Danczuk's book, which contains some details about my finding this file.

45.8: 'I told him that if he had read the book then he already knew what I had said. My head was spinning - and I can't think what other reason he had for phoning other than as a warning.'

45.9: A team of campaigning cross party MP's including Mr Danczuk, John Mann, and Zac Goldsmith, are gathering information from other ex-officials **in a bid to persuade Home Secretary, Theresa May, to agree to implement a full amnesty protecting whistleblowers from threats relating to the Official Secrets Act, and warnings of lost pensions for revealing details.**

46.0: Mr Baker confirmed: 'I had a long chat with Tony Robinson and he was been very helpful. The information has been passed onto Simon and his colleagues for consideration.'

46.1: INTERVIEW WITH FORMER MP SIMON DANCZUK – AND COMMENTS FROM EX DETECTIVE JACK TASKER:

46.2: Campaigning MP Simon Danczuk claims he is facing a barrage of online abuse from supporters who remain 'in denial' of the alleged paedophile activities of his predecessor Cyril Smith.

46.3: The crusading Rochdale Labour politician, who revealed historic claims of child sexual abuse against the late Liberal heavyweight MP within his best-selling book, believes he is now a target from perverted Smith supporters determined to undermine his credibility.

46.4: Simon, 49, said: "Sometimes I wish I had never tried examining some of these issues."

46.5: He added: "I am not one for conspiracy, but I am worried where some of these attacks on me are coming from."

46.6: At times, he is understood to be concerned for own safety, and allegedly faces regular online extreme threats and hostility.

46.7: His friends say his claims of an alleged paedophile Westminster ring decades ago, his exposure of Smith, and previous statements about [Name Redacted] and Leon Brittan generated a hate campaign.

46.8: He has also attracted controversial headlines of his own recently due to allegations about his personal life, Parliamentary expense claims, and now admits he is often shunned by fellow politicians.

46.9: He told an ex-police chief that he was 'sent to Coventry' due to his stance over abuse claims.

47.0: Matt Baker, the co-author of his book, added: "He does regret getting involved at times and is taking a battering from some online groups. **There now seems to a bizarre crusade against him.**"

47.1: Danczuk however, still receives generous support from some former police and special branch officers, who were involved with the original investigations into Smith, and claim it is only to be expected after ruffling so many feathers.

47.2: Jack Tasker, who investigated numerous paedophile allegations against Smith dating back to 1959 and over a 30-year period, says he too faced abuse, and was warned off prosecuting him by senior officers.

47.3: He believes Smith was a major supplier to other MPs, and claims: "**They are a bit worried in case the dam bursts, or something will happen.**"

47.4: "I know he is coming under a lot of pressure. When we met at a radio interview, I said I bet you're a proper favourite at Parliament, and he replied, 'there's only one other MP who will speak to me.'"

47.5: “I thought what a strange club that is. They’re upset because somebody has exposed a net of paedophiles. It’s quite obvious they are going after Simon because he’s broken the code.”

47.6: “I’ve seen that people are going at him from every direction and obviously, they want him out, don’t they? I think it’s payback time for doing this and for exposing this whole movement.”

47.7: Ex special branch officer Tony Robinson, says he was also threatened for speaking out last year, and is not at all surprised other whistleblowers are worried.

47.8: He found the secret police files on Cyril Smith hidden in his safe at the Blackburn HQ, and confirmed: **“Smith was definitely protected but he became a ‘loose cannon.’**

47.9: “If he had been charged he would have named names and taken many influential men down with him, and maybe even the government.”

48.0: MY INTERVIEW WITH FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND POTENTIAL WHISTLEBLOWER ABOUT WHERE THE MISSING WANLESS FILES COULD BE LOCATED.

48.1: A former intelligence whistleblower claims a series of top-secret files revealed by the Cabinet Office in July and linking several former senior politicians to the Westminster paedophile scandal were initially discovered late last year following the aftermath of the Wanless inquiry.

48.2: The retired MI5 officer says the files were first located in an old store of ‘miscellaneous and assorted cabinet secretary’s papers’ held at the National Archives, but were then deliberately suppressed until after Leon Brittan’s death on Jan 21, and the general election.

48.3: He also believes an admitted ‘flaw’ in the government’s archive search is just a ‘red herring’ and says news of their existence was buried until near the summer recess **because they included material concerning allegations of sexual abuse linked to former Prime Minister Ted Heath.**

48.4: The intelligence chief says historic claims about Heath were sent to key regional police forces and the Met some time ago, and that they have since referred the facts to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for further investigation.

48.5: Since then, the IPCC and at least nine police forces including Jersey, have announced separate inquiries into alleged sexual abuse by the former premier.

48.6: A revised search for the missing documents was instigated by **Home Secretary Theresa May in November, who admitted there ‘may have been a cover-up,’** pledging her determination to ‘get to the truth.’

48.7: Our source, and the former head of the elite Flying Squad John O’Connor, both provided important information to the Met in November and December about probable locations for the missing files in the aftermath of the failed Wanless inquiry.

48.8: They included the National Archives and Public Records facilities at Kew, Scotland Yard's own archive, and another government storage facility at Hounslow.

48.9: Despite a number of thorough searches however, nothing further was announced in their hunt until May 5, immediately prior to the general election, when the permanent secretary to the Cabinet Office, Richard Heaton, gave a brief update and apologised to reviewers about an alleged 'flaw' in their initial search.

49.0: He claimed that documents identified to him in February this year included revelations about ex-politicians, Sir Peter Morrison, former Home Secretary Leon Brittan, and Sir William van Straubenzee.

49.1: They said files also revealed serious sexual allegations against former diplomat Sir Peter Hayman, ex-MI6 chief Maurice Oldfield, and an MI5 letter dated 1986 about a particular MP with a 'penchant for small boys.'

49.2: Following protestations from our key ex-intelligence source, the Cabinet Office (CO) have again been asked if it was true that the files were actually found last year, containing details about Leon Brittan and Edward Heath, which may have been suppressed?

49.3: They have finally admitted that Sir Peter Hayman's file was overlooked, and believe data on Sir William Straubenzee was only discovered in late January, but more mysteriously they have claimed that Lord Brittan's secret file was only found the day after he died on Jan 22.

49.4: The CO spokesman, Bob Honey, said all five files have publishing titles but claimed he did not know their precise contents, and could not comment about Lord Brittan or Sir Edward Heath.

49.5: He added: "On timing, I don't have anything to add to Richard Heaton's letter, which sets out the timeline and process of when they were found and handed over to Wanless and Whittam.

49.6: "We won't be commenting on the content of the files any further than what is in the Wanless and Whittam review.

49.7: "I would flag again that they said there was nothing in there that would have changed the conclusions they reached in November 2014."

49.8: Our source refutes their claims and dates, and remains adamant all the files were located last year and could have proved significant as Lord Brittan was still alive and should have been questioned.

49.9: He also cited the department's pomposity, knowledge and presumption that it might not have changed the Wanless inquiry outcome.

50.0: The NSPCC's Peter Wanless who tried unsuccessfully to locate 114 missing files relating to MP Geoffrey Dickens dossier handed to Leon Brittan in 1983. After receiving Mr Heaton's letter, he said the emergence of these new papers was 'unhelpful' for public confidence.

50.1: He said: "Crimes against children, particularly the rights of the complainant, were given considerably less serious consideration than would be expected today."

50.2: John O'Connor, 72, a former Met Commander who headed major Flying Squad and VIP investigations for over three decades, said he had been placed on standby in the 1980's for a potential major inquiry into child sex abuse at Westminster.

50.3: He said: **"There was a rumour around the Yard that there was a big paedophile ring and that a major inquiry was likely. We were on standby but nothing further happened."**

50.4: John also agreed that other paedophile claims were fairly common at that time but admits the police perhaps did not have the same appetite as with other crimes.

50.5: He added: "In those days all these types of claims were referred to the DPP but you were given a strict time limit as to how far back you could investigate."

50.6: **Last year he believed a paper trail to help locate these missing abuse files still existed, and was the reason why he, and our intelligence whistleblower gave information to Theresa May's elite squad.**

50.7: **"Files just don't missing at that level," John confirmed, adding: "I am adamant that a paper trail and archived copies can still be traced and identified."**

50.8: **He blamed special branch for any potential cover-ups, and said they were controlled by Leon Brittan, and helped protect key government officials including paedophile MP Cyril Smith.**

50.9: John said they worked for their puppet masters in Westminster and were 'ruthless,' and a 'law unto themselves,' claiming 'their role was as a government protection unit, and simply covered the backs of MP's.'

51.0: PETER WANLESS INQUIRY

My article regarding the controversial Wanless inquiry.

51.1: A new government review into the Home Office's handling of historic child abuse allegations at Westminster during the 1980's is expected to face stern criticism this week after failing to locate any of the crucial files that first prompted the inquiry.

51.2: It is also likely to be attacked over claims that it has deliberately ignored other vital information, including claims that former Labour cabinet minister Barbara Castle was also investigating similar claims in 1984.

51.3: The report by NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless - due to be published on Tuesday - focused on concerns that the government failed to act on details passed to them by the late former Rochdale MP, Geoffrey Dickens.

51.4: It will confirm that no evidence was found relating to files presented by Mr Dickens to former Home Secretary Leon Brittan in 1983, and believes 114 files may have been 'lost or destroyed.'

51.5: Mr Brittan though, admitted earlier this year that he did receive the files and passed them onto his department team for further inquiry.

51.6: Although this latest 10-week review will condemn the handling, research and archiving of crucial files, the report itself, and the commissioning by Home Secretary Theresa May, is likely to come under fire for failing to trace any compelling evidence of child abuse.

51.7: The documents were also expected to contain the names of many MP's, Peers, and senior figures who were suspected of child abuse, and actively involved with promoting the ideals of the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE).

51.8: Many child abuse campaigners however, believe this inquiry was just a 'red herring, and was 'destined to fail,' and should have had a broader remit, with more time to complete its investigations.

51.9: They say the report should have examined additional historic information that has recently come to light linked to Barbara Castle, who held numerous personal papers confirming allegations of Westminster child abuse.

52.0: She also had a list of 16 MP's and Peers allegedly involved, and a second list of potential sponsors and supporters of PIE, together with copies of meetings, minutes and references to an internal inquiry.

52.1: Former child protection boss, Peter McElvie, who was one of the first people to raise concerns that high ranking politicians were implicated said: "If the files can't be found, I think it's a bit of a red herring because there are enough politicians, and officials in the Home Office, who were aware of their contents.

52.2: "The actual paperwork is out there and anyone who tries to deny it is misleading people because it was a major event in its time."

52.3: Current Rochdale MP Simon Danczuk added: "I'm worried that Peter Wanless has just been set up to fail in many ways. I don't think he was given enough time to carry out this investigation.

52.4: "And I don't think he was provided with enough support within the Home Office, and worried that he didn't get the technological support.

52.5: "I think there are fairly sophisticated and digital forensic techniques that could have been used to identify and establish what documents were available over a 20-year period. I don't think he's been given the opportunity to get to the documents."

52.6: This latest review was an inquiry into an inquiry, and Theresa May confirmed: "Peter Wanless has looked into the way the Home Office dealt with an investigation into child abuse allegations between 1979 and 1999.

52.7: "The investigation found last year that 114 potentially relevant files were not available. These are presumed by the Home office and the investigator, destroyed, missing or unfound, although the investigator made it clear that there was no evidence to suggest the files had been removed or destroyed inappropriately."

52.8: She told abuse victims recently: "I know you have experienced terrible things, and I know that, because of the identity of your abusers, or the way you were treated, many of you have lost trust in the authorities."

52.9: A Home Office source added: **“We have looked inside and behind every cupboard in the Home Office. They have been around them twice, but have not been able to find any of them.”**

53.0: It was also suggested by the source that files may have been passed to the police or shredded in good faith many years ago when the department moved in 2005, but says they are unable to verify these actions.

53.1: **Secret files relating to alleged child abuse and/or duplicate documents are now thought to be contained within former Euro MP, Mrs Castle’s archives at the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library but several documents have already been allegedly ‘closed’ or ‘restricted,’ since her input was made public in July.**

53.2: Some of these are said to include letters written by her to Jack Straw and Neil Kinnock.

53.3: Attempts by her to persuade the editor of her local newspaper to run a story about Westminster child abuse in 1984, were also blocked due to intervention from ex-MP Cyril Smith, and confiscation from Special Branch.

53.4: Many scholars believe copies of Dickens dossier still exist within her files and at the Scotland Yard archives, and possibly in those held by military intelligence, but it is believed her list of names, and some other key papers, that have emerged, have since been classified under the ‘Official Secrets Act.’

53.5: MP John Mann, who has spent years on the trail of the Dickens papers, feels her evidence is crucial to any inquiry and has also spoken with some of her former staff in an attempt to discover their whereabouts.

53.6: A second inquiry into the abuse scandal is already under way but has faced similar controversy over the Home Secretary’s appointment of a leader.

53.7: Baroness Butler-Sloss was forced to stand down in July due to potential family connections, and Fiona Woolf, the Lord Mayor of London also resigned over alleged links to Lord Brittan.

53.8: The Telegraph article: 6/7/14: The alleged paedophile ring at the heart of the British Establishment: Investigation in to alleged child abuse ring in Westminster dogged by claims of cover ups and missing files:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10950111/The-alleged-paedophile-ring-at-the-heart-of-the-British-Establishment.html>

53.9: DICKENS DOSSIER HUNT

My updated article on the search for Barbara Castle’s archive material.

54.0; Scotland Yard officers seized Barbara Castle’s archives as they try to locate a copy of the vital missing ‘Dickens Dossier’ from 1983, that first sparked an inquiry into allegations of a Westminster paedophile ring organised by top politicians and prominent people.

54.1: Located for the past decade at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, senior officers from the Met arrived there on Thursday to restrict access and inspect over 850 boxes from the former Labour Minister's personal archive searching for links to Mr Dickens' files, and for details of paperwork to, or from, key officials at that time.

54.2: In particular, they have identified evidence of Mrs Castle's correspondence to Jack Straw between October 1981 and February 1999, including over 90 files; and a further 140 files containing letters to and from ex Labour chief Neil Kinnock, and his wife Glenys between November 1981 and August 1996.

54.3: Critics and campaigners however, have wondered why these were not searched before and highlight the fact other crucial papers from Mrs Castle to Leon Brittan, Geoffrey Dickens and to many other MP's, don't seem to have been identified, located, or even included within their hunt.

54.4: This new search was instigated by the government this week following the publication of NSPCC executive Peter Wanless' report - another commissioned Home Office inquiry - that has again failed to trace any of Mr Dickens' 114 files, first handed by him to the then Home Secretary Leon Brittan for further investigation.

54.5: This latest report has attracted extreme criticism and controversy over the government's handling of this child sex abuse inquiry, which highlighted a poor recording system within the Home Office, and an acceptance they could not say for certain whether there had been any cover up.

54.6: Home Secretary Theresa May told MPs this week: **"I cannot stand here and say that the Home office was not involved in a cover during the 1980s. There might have been a cover up, and that is why we have set up an inquiry into child abuse. We are determined to get to the truth."**

54.7: She has now studied new evidence that confirms Mrs Castle used her own contacts to investigate the aftermath of the Dickens report in 1984.

54.8: It was claimed that paperwork handed by her to her local newspaper in Bury, was later seized and believed destroyed following intervention from Liberal paedophile Cyril Smith, and backed by a Special Branch raid.

54.9: The power and authority of Special Branch at that time was also confirmed and highlighted by former Flying Squad chief, John O'Connor, 71, who confirmed: **"Their role was as a government protection unit. They were ruthless, and a law unto themselves, simply working for their puppet masters."**

55.0: Former Special Branch officer Tony Robinson, 81, also said their role dealt with political rather than criminal matters and **said they monitored MPs to ensure they were not liable to potential blackmail attempts as it was at the height of the 'Cold War.'**

55.1: He also confirmed that he found a prosecution file containing claims of serious sexual abuse and paedophile activities against former Rochdale MP Cyril Smith, deliberately hidden in his Special Branch vault.

55.2: He said he was contacted by MI5, and admitted his boss then took the file to their London headquarters, before that too eventually disappeared.

55.3: PLEASE NOTE: During my own investigations into allegations of sexual abuse involving high level politicians and links to Westminster, I have located and interviewed many people who have provided details of alleged links etc. They include the families of disappeared children and ex-sex offenders and prisoners. I do not have the time to reveal all the facts at this stage but I have included a few statements as evidence of additional potential links.

55.4: LINKS TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUNG SCHOOLBOY MARTIN ALLEN – BELIEVED LINKED TO THE WESTMINSTER PAEDOPHILE RING.
My interviews with brother Kevin Allen and others c2014-15.

55.5: Detectives investigating the probable murder of a teenage boy linked to politicians over thirty-five years ago have told his family that crucial case files thought lost or destroyed, have just been relocated at Scotland Yard.

55.6: Martin Allen, 15, mysteriously disappeared on Bonfire night 1979 after leaving a friend at King's Cross Station. Police believe he was one of three young boys deliberately kidnapped and murdered by members of a London based VIP paedophile gang.

55.7: His elder brother Kevin, now 52, who has spent decades trying to find untangle the facts, says he received a note this week from a detective, admitting they have finally found Martin's files, and offered him a personal liaison officer.

55.8: Kevin was both surprised and delighted by this unexpected revelation, and explained: "I have received an email from the police telling me that 'somehow they have found some of Martin's files.'

55.9: "The location of these historic files has been a mystery in itself for many years. I am one hundred per cent sure they can't be the original files, as they previously told me they were lost in the great flood of Kensington police station.

56.0: "I assume the files they have now found are the ones they said relate to a DCI, who allegedly took them to Spain around the 1990's.

56.1: "Operation Midland have not been in touch since February and this message about the files has come from a cop I know in homicide in 2008. He was also the very same man who went out to Spain following intelligence on the former chief officer."

56.2: He added that following appeals in 2006 and 2009, nothing more was heard until late last year when officers from Operation Midland told him they had some 'credible evidence' from a survivor.

56.3: Kevin confirmed: "They told me to 'prepare for the worst,' and believed Martin was one of three children murdered by a paedophile gang associated with politicians at Dolphin Square, the Elm Guest House, and at another address in Kensington.

56.4: "I told them that I knew Martin was dead. I have had a gut feeling and have sensed it for years and although we were not twins, we always knew what the other was thinking. I believe the people who took Martin, took him to order.

56.5: "Maybe they got more than they bargained for. He had the brain of a fifteen-year old but only looked about twelve in his school blazer. He was slight and appeared the perfect schoolboy."

56.6: Martin was the son of the Australian High Commissioner's chief chauffeur, Tom Allen.

56.7: He lived with his family at the caretaker's cottage within the grounds of the Commission at Stoke Lodge, Kensington, where he and Kevin used to do several part time, odd jobs, including car cleaning.

56.8: It was a venue visited by VIP's including Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and her now disgraced entourage including Sir Peter Hayman, private secretary Sir Peter Morrison, and Sir Leon Brittan, now similarly tainted by abuse scandals.

56.9: When Martin first vanished, it sparked one of the most intense searches in the capital within police history with 200 potential suspects questioned, and more than 50,000 people interviewed.

57.0: It also involved intelligence officials from the Australian Embassy in London, who made independent inquiries, and even offered a substantial reward for information.

57.1: Kevin was critical of previous police inquiries, and said: "They now tell me they are sorting me out with a liaison officer. It's a bit late after all this time but if they start telling me rubbish, I will just get rid of them."

57.2: He added: "After this visit I heard nothing for ages, then I asked the police about 'rogue' chauffeurs and casual ex-con drivers who were said to have been employed by the Embassy, and were the subject of intelligence inquiries.

57.3: "They didn't seem interested in any of that, and asked if Martin ever went to places where there were rent boys."

57.4: Kevin highlighted several strange anomalies with the case, saying: "Back in 1979 when I was just seventeen, the officer in charge asked me what I thought had happened to Martin.

57.5: "I said he was taken by elite forces, and told him some higher people were involved – but he suddenly tore into me and, shouted, 'if I said things like that, I could get hurt.'

57.6: "The police were adamant the files were lost in a flood years ago, but later advised me that a retired policeman had taken them to Spain. I don't why as he was not involved with the case.

57.7: "There was also some weird news about a headstone and a shrine dedicated to Martin, found at the home of an alleged paedophile in Liverpool."

57.8: He added: "Maybe now that one of the lead detectives, who went to Spain in search of the files is back on the case we can finally find out about what really happened to Martin?"

57.9: Editor's notes:

58.0: Martin Allen was last seen at 3.50pm on 5th November 1979 after leaving a friend at King's Cross close to a foot tunnel leading to the Southbound Piccadilly line. Later reports suggested further sightings at Gloucester Road and at Earl's court underground stations.

58.1: The latter sighting revealed a possible sinister explanation with claims that Martin was seen being led away by a tall blonde-haired man.

58.2: One witness said the man had an arm around the boy and told him 'not to run away,' adding that he placed his hand on the back of his neck.

58.3: This description formed the basis of a massive police poster campaign, which confirmed that Martin was 5ft tall with brown hair and was wearing his school uniform. He wore a navy and yellow tie and was carrying a bright yellow bag marked 'Astral.'

58.4: Despite an intensive search no personal possessions, or any body was ever found.

58.5: SECOND ARTICLE WITH KEVIN ALLEN AND OTHERS

58.6: Scotland Yard officials are to examine claims that an Australian Secret Intelligence Service review carried out over 35-years ago may have investigated the mysterious disappearance of a young teenage boy linked to their Commission in London, and their use of rogue chauffeurs.

58.7: Martin Allen, 15, vanished without trace on Bonfire Night 1979, after travelling via King's Cross railway station en-route to visit his elder brother Bob.

58.8: He was the son of the Australian High Commissioner's top chauffeur Tom Allen and fresh evidence from his elder brother Kevin, has prompted the police to study claims he was deliberately kidnapped and murdered.

58.9: It is also understood from a key police source that Australian intelligence officers carried out a thorough inquiry into his disappearance at the time, and examined the use of casual chauffeurs, who worked for, or visited the Commissioner's residence at Stoke Lodge, Kensington.

59.0: The Met have now inferred that Martin could have been one of three young boys murdered by a VIP paedophile ring that included politicians and prominent people in the 1970's and 80's.

59.1: All the murders are said to have occurred in a similar time period and are linked to several known paedophile venues at Dolphin Square, Elm Guest House, and an address in Kensington.

59.2: Police are appealing for any other potential survivors to come forward, and are considering whether Martin was the victim of a chance encounter, or deliberately targeted by a 'ring' member.

59.3: Martin lived with his family in the caretaker's cottage within the elegant grounds of the Commissioner's residence, which was visited at that time by a host of prominent officials.

59.4: Regular attendees for civic functions were Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her disgraced aides, including paedophile diplomat Sir Peter Hayman, the disgraced private secretary Sir Peter Morrison, and former Home Secretary Leon Brittan, now tainted with similar sex abuse claims.

59.5: As a teenager, Martin and Kevin helped clean cars at Canberra House, near the Australia House Embassy on the Strand, and his appearance may have been noted by visiting chauffeurs.

59.6: Officers are hoping to locate and examine any historic information from Australian intelligence officials, and are trying to locate the names of any firms, or individuals working as chauffeurs.

59.7: They have collated alleged information about a 'Dirty Dozen,' team run by ex-cons, and potentially involving convicted paedophile killer Sidney Cooke.

59.8: Cooke is said to have worked as a chauffeur for a luxury car firm in the city, and is also alleged to have been involved with a group, responsible for torture and murder.

59.9: Kevin told police it was a common practice for the Commission to supplement its own regular drivers with casual drivers, or to hire an additional chauffeur firm from across the Thames.

60.0: He said: "At the same time as Martin's disappearance, a couple of paedophiles worked for the one car company that Australia House used as sub-contractors.

60.1: "Cooke and a few other infamous multi-murdering people worked for this company."

60.2: In addition, it is claimed by a cellmate that 'Babes in the Wood' triple child killer Ronald Jebson also boasted of working for a luxury car firm, collecting and delivering children to prestigious locations where the children were stripped, auctioned and sexually abused. He said he worked for a Westminster set and drove for a luxury limousine company in London, driving all sorts of 'posh' cars.

60.3: Another chauffeur said to be involved was Jimmy Savile's former driver David Smith, who committed suicide prior to his trial for sex offences last year.

60.4: It is understood many children were specifically ordered from photographs in care home files, and Cooke and others, were said to have targeted innocent youngsters at railway stations, fairs, or amusement arcades, before being sexually abused, gang raped or trafficked abroad.

60.5: Interview with Kevin Allen Friday 13/5/16.

60.6: "I had a visit yesterday from two female police officers, who are going to be my liaison officers.

60.7: "Basically, they want to go over everything from day one when Martin first disappeared so they are going to give me a debrief next week, so I will have got to the police station for a whole day.

60.8: "I will have to tell them everything that I know up to now. They said they are full on. They are not just concentrating on Martin's case at the moment because they have a backlog of stuff they need to clear up.

60.9: "But as far as they are concerned it is all about Martin. That's good news and they are going to go back over all the infamous people like Sidney Cooke, Jimmy Savile, Rolf Harris and all the other notorious people just to see if there is any connection.

61.0: "I've got to take all the old paper cuttings and any information I have got because they want to catalogue everything in chronological order.

61.1: "They have only got notes from Midland but they haven't got the files. It's strange in the way that the police don't share. I don't know why that is.

61.2: "I said don't they give you everything they've got and they so no only the notes that are available. It doesn't sound as if they will get the actual files as far as I was led to believe.

61.3: "You would have thought in this day and age there would be a police encrypted database so that they could just type in Operation Midland and it would all come out. They don't seem to work that way.

61.4: "I have to go in and tell them what I know and they will cross reference everything.

61.5: "I said to them what worries me about all this is that none of all Martin's investigations have seemed to have lasted longer than 18 months. And then they are closed down because they have got nothing.

61.6: "I said what I don't want to happen is for you to be working for the same time and then all of a sudden Sidney Cooke's on death row and for him to die and for you to make up the story about a death bed confession and then sweep it under the carpet.

61.7: "I don't want them saying anything like just to get it off the books.

61.8: "Jimmy Savile – they said they are looking into that as well – all the notorious paedophiles etc. They don't for certain if there is a link but they say they will have to look into it.

61.9: "They said we are leaving no stone unturned. We are going to look at everyone that has been a notorious paedophile or child killer. They said this has come from the top that they want Martin's case cleared up.

62.0: "They gave me the impression that they have people in mind. I will press them more when I spend the day with them. They said people don't trust the police but admitted they talk to me.

62.1: "I am what they call a secondary victim and kept asking me the question why do other victims talk to me? I said I have never been abused and I don't know for certain whether Martin was ever abused.

62.2: "It's not 110% set in stone, is it? They said no, we see you as a secondary victim and survivor as you have to deal with all this all of your life.

62.3: "They said Savile was prolific so would have to look into it. Martin never went to Top of the Pops or anywhere as far as we know. I don't know if Savile came to the Australian Embassy or High Commissioner's residence – I can't remember – but I do recall Rolf Harris being there.

62.4: "Harris was there quite a few times with his Australian connections. I think they are now going to look at everyone who was that way inclined.

62.5: Interview with Kevin Allen Friday 22/4/16.

62.6: Operation Malswick 2 officers visited Kevin and his family yesterday (Thursday) 21/4/16.

62.7: "It was to tell us what was going to be happening. Apparently after they closed down Operation Midland they had an after-meeting and all the heads of departments wanted to set something up to see what really happened to Martin.

62.8: "They didn't say too much about Midland and they are now based in Barking police station which comes under east London and basically they are going to sift through whatever they have got on Martin's original case.

62.9: "They admitted there is not a lot with some parts missing and they are going through all the other cases sifting through the names, and will go from there.

63.0: "It was just to outline what they can and are going to do and we have arranged another meeting with one of them for next week because they are interested in what I have got in my little notebook. It's information that's been given to me by other survivors and from people who have contacted me.

63.1: "They said they still believe some of Nick's stuff and are not negating any of it. There was another person that was not put to the press but all of his story was completely rubbish.

63.2: "They asked what we want out of this and we said we want to get a death certificate and want to find out who the perpetrators are? And of course, what happened?

63.3: "I asked them what do you think we want?

63.4: "We have never had a death certificate. Back in the mid 90s we inquired about it and they said the application went to Westminster Coroners' but they declined it. They said once we give a death certificate for a non-body name it opens up a can of worms.

63.5: "It will alert all these people that are involved with fraud like life insurance or have changed their names or whatever, which I totally understand.

63.6: "The police came here to the works at Greenford and met some of my family. It involved two detectives from Operation Malswick, who are part of a completely new team, and it was all very useful.

63.7: "Later when we had a coffee and it was more laid back and I had a chance to speak with both of the coppers, who confirmed – we really do want to get this sorted out!

63.8: "I asked if there was a financial problem like Midland but they said they didn't believe there was and just repeated it was their intention to sort it out. They added that however, Martin's is not the only case we are on at the moment.

63.9: "They were from the organised crime and murder squad and admitted they are working on multiple cases of different things. It is a completely new team but told them I am a bit of a

loose cannon and don't want to be messed about this time. I think maybe at the next meeting I may get more out of it.

64.0: "I said they have barked at us and told us what they are going to do but I said really you have not answered any of our questions - because you don't know the answers yet - and have not had time to read through all the files.

64.1: "They mentioned a new investigation with about 90 police officers involved called Winter?? It's basically looking back from the 60s to the 80s of all the alleged police cover ups to all these child sex and CSA cases. I am going to have to make a call to see if Martin is involved in that.

64.2: "I would have thought so as this is now the 5th investigation. It looks like a section of about half a dozen officers are now on Martin's case. And it's good that after Operation Midland a couple of heads of department have decided to continue with the investigation.

64.3: "I also think that because of the Australian development last year Ross Coulthard did some digging around with the ASIS (Australian Secret Service) because they came over in 1979 and spent about 8-9 months investigating Martin's disappearance.

64.4: "He was trying to find out what they had found and they must have something but they are now saying they cannot confirm nor deny... however most of the files went for destruction, if there were any, so they have left it wide open really.

64.5: "I don't the police here know about these files. I wouldn't be surprised though if they didn't know with their secret service coming over here from a Commonwealth country to look into this. And it might be treading on their territory.

64.6: "I just find it amazing that all these departments don't speak to each other. It seems they all have to start from scratch again. I am not keeping any secrets. I will pass on any information that I have received from my own contacts."

64.7: INTERVIEW WITH PRISONER & POTENTIAL CHAUFFEUR LINKS TO CSA

64.8: A former cellmate of 'Babes in the Wood' killer Ronald Jebson claims he boasted of working as a chauffeur in the 1970's for a luxury limousine company, **collecting and delivering wayward kids to be auctioned and sexually abused by politicians and prominent people.**

64.9: A predatory paedophile with a string of sexual convictions including three counts of kidnapping, rape and child murders, for which he is still serving concurrent life sentences, his ex-con colleague, believes Jebson was the ideal driver to take care of any potential problems.

65.0: Known as 'Billy' to protect his anonymity he says he is speaking out now due to constant denials of a cover up over concerning a Westminster paedophile ring.

65.1: He says Jebson thought it amusing that a convicted paedophile was hired to fetch and carry other high-profile paedophiles, and take them to prime locations, where they would abuse young girls and boys.

65.2: He believes his driving career was probably in 1973/74 during the same brief period of freedom when he killed the three children and assaulted others.

65.3: Jebson, now 75, raped and killed 8-year old Rosemary Papper in June 1974 during a revenge attack on the daughter of a former school friend.

65.4: And in 2000, some 30-years after the incident, he was eventually convicted of a gruesome double murder dating back to March 1970.

65.5: Jebson had kidnapped, attacked and murdered 11-year old Susan Blatchford, and 12-year old Gary Hanlon in Epping Forest, in what became known as the 'Babes in the Wood' murder mystery.

65.6: Their bodies were found months later huddled together and half buried in woodland. Much of the girl's clothing and underwear were missing.

65.7: This killing happened just 29-days after Jebson had been released from jail for a sexual assault, and four days before he was committed another act of gross indecency against a minor.

65.8: The former inmate says he was deliberately placed in the next cell to Jebson on B-Wing in HMP Frankland, near Durham, about 15-years ago, to extract further information about his past.

65.9: Billy explained: "I was encouraged to get Jebson to talk about his past in return for favours and protection.

66.0: "We got to know each other quite well, and chatted when our cell doors were open. We used to work together in the woodworking store. He used to clean the huge saw and put settee frames together.

66.1: "He showed me his stamp collection but was not always very talkative. One day though, I was being pressed by a screw to get him to talk. He hid around the corner to listen whilst I leant on the doorframe.

66.2: "I couldn't believe it when Ronnie started blabbing. He said he worked for a luxury limousine company on the south side of London. He said it was linked to the Westminster set, and claimed they had all sorts of posh cars, including Rolls Royce's.

66.3: "He said the clients were all well to do, prominent people, including politicians, but said they were also paedophiles. Ronnie said many of the victims came from poor backgrounds.

66.4: "He said he often collected the children on a Friday and would take them to a large property in Surrey, to London addresses, or to a large house in the country owned by a Lord.

66.5: "He would have to collect the kids again and take them back for Monday. He said the parents knew what was happening and were paid huge sums of money.

66.6: "One time he said he went to a 'big-do' where there were many other chauffeurs' downstairs in the kitchen. They were getting something to eat and drink and were told to enjoy themselves.

66.7: "He said there were some very influential people there, and although they were told to stay downstairs, he says he was curious and went to have a look. **He said it was**

incredible. All the children were stark naked and only partially covered by small bibs or aprons, and were being auctioned off.”

66.8: Despite being out for more than 10-years, Billy suffers from ill health and remains worried about possible reprisals, and says he once confided in a prison solicitor, only to later find out later, that he also represented the triple killer - so remains in fear of his life.

66.9: He also claimed that at the time of the incident, he was visited by two men from the intelligence services, but given a good beating just for talking with them.

67.0: Killer linked to Geoffrey Dickens threats – to have case reviewed: My exclusive story from about 2014/15:

67.1: Arthur Hutchinson, a multiple murderer and brutal rapist linked to death threats against MP Geoffrey Dickens in the 1980’s, is to have his case reviewed by the High Court next year as the first UK ‘lifer’ ever to be allowed to challenge his sentence following a European Court ruling against whole life tariffs.

67.2: If successful with his appeal, Hutchinson could set a unique human rights precedent, and be back on the streets within hours, or he could at least force the government to confirm when he is to be considered for release after spending over 30-years in prison – and some 12-years beyond his recommended tariff.

67.3: Hutchinson stabbed and killed wealthy businessman Basil Laitner, 59, his wife Avril, 55, and their 28-year old son Richard in an unprovoked frenzied attack, before raping their 18-year old daughter Nicola at knifepoint in Dore, Sheffield, in October 1983.

67.4: This extreme and bloody slaughter happened without warning just a few hours after a luxurious wedding reception at the Laitner’s luxury home for their other daughter Suzanne.

67.5: Already wanted by the police for another horrific rape, and shortly after serving a 5-year sentence for the attempted murder of his brother in law, this crazed killer spent many weeks on the run, in disguise, and hiding in towns throughout the north of England before being captured on a farm in Hartlepool.

67.6: Hutchinson, now 73, was identified by forensic tests and a clear description given by the rape victim. It was understood he had only originally planned to commit an armed robbery.

67.7: At the time of his arrest and conviction however, Hutchinson came into the public domain after police found the campaigning Tory MP’s name and personal details in his notebook.

67.8: Mr Dickens was the victim of two burglaries, and also received death threats and severe intimidation after presenting a dossier to the then Home Secretary Leon Brittan, in 1983, claiming that a paedophile ring existed with Westminster and objected to promotions linked to the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) network.

67.9: Mr Dicken’s, the MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, who died from cancer in 1995, believed he was on an underworld hit list. Hutchinson though, refused to reveal any details about the contents of his notebook, but was said to be associated with PIE, and had many paedophile friends.

68.0: In September 1984, Hutchinson was convicted on three counts of murder and rape and given a life sentence with a recommended minimum tariff of 18-years, so he could in theory have been released in 2002, subject to a Parole Board review.

68.1: As the Home Secretary at the time, Mr Brittan objected to the length of his sentence and placed him on a special list, demanding that life sentences should mean 'life,' recommending that he should never be released.

68.2: In May 2008 though, almost six years after the decision to determine a minimum term for a life sentence was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Home Secretary to the High Court, Hutchinson's legal team lodged an appeal, claiming it was a breach of Hutchinson's human rights.

68.3: This appeal was rejected by the High Court, and a further application in October of that same year was also refused, so his lawyers took the case to the European Courts.

68.4: In July last year however, European Judges ruled that whole life sentences, which meant the prisoner would die in prison, were 'inhumane and degrading,' and in August, he became the first 'lifer' in the UK to be allowed to use this ruling, to try to have his sentence declared a breach of his human rights.

68.5: Prior to the hearing, relatives for the Laitner family had also objected to his European appeal, explaining: "Whenever the name of Hutchinson rears its ugly head, it does nothing but create fear and distress to the victims of this heinous crime. Let the human rights judiciary members be thrust into our position for just a day and maybe they would understand this."

68.6: This new unprecedented high-profile review is expected to take place at the High Court about June next year, and could result in a recommendation for Hutchinson's immediate release, or at least a revised determination as to exactly when he will be considered for released.

68.7: Hutchinson's potential knowledge about Mr Dicken's circumstances and the paedophile network from that era could also prove most enlightening.

68.8: Whatever the outcome, the decision is bound to be controversial and it will certainly make legal history.

68.9: HITMAN LOSES APPEAL – Don Hale exclusive story c 2014/15. Links to Geoffrey Dickens and Leon Brittan and allegations to CSA:

69.0: A triple killer once linked to the Westminster paedophile scandal in the 1980's and potential death threats against campaigning MP Geoffrey Dickens, lost his appeal this week against a 'whole life' tariff imposed by former Home Secretary Leon Brittan.

69.1: Arthur Hutchinson, 74, was jailed in 1984 after being convicted of three counts of murder and rape and given a life sentence with a recommended tariff of 18-years.

69.2: Mr Brittan intervened though and objected to the length of his sentence, placing him on a special list and demanded that life sentences should mean 'life,' recommending that he should never be released.

69.3: In theory Hutchinson could have been released in 2002 subject to Parole Board reviews and in 2008, his legal team lodged an appeal, claiming a life sentence breached his human rights.

69.4: After being rejected by the UK High Court the case went to the European Courts of Human Rights (ECHR) and last July they ruled that whole life sentences, where the prisoner would die in jail, were 'inhumane and degrading.'

69.5: This week however, Hutchinson, as the first whole-life prisoner ever allowed to challenge his sentence, he had his latest bid for freedom rejected by the (ECHR) Strasbourg based court, who agreed the Secretary of State's powers to review life sentences is sufficient.

69.6: Their ruling confirmed: "The court must accept the national court's interpretation of domestic law.'

69.7: Hutchinson who was dubbed 'the fox' was already on the run for another murder at the time of the triple slaughter of a wealthy family near Sheffield in October 1983. He had not long been released after serving a 5-year sentence for the attempted murder of a relative.

69.8: Originally from Hartlepool, he was eventually captured by police close his home after going on the run for weeks and remaining in disguise.

69.9: The name, address and personal details about **Geoffrey Dickens**, the Conservative MP, for Littleborough and Saddleworth, were discovered in **Hutchinson's notebook** when arrested.

70.0: He refused to provide any explanation but it was claimed he had links to the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) and associations with other known paedophiles.

70.1: Mr Dickens handed Leon Brittan a dossier on alleged child abuse and claims of a Westminster paedophile ring to the Home Secretary in 1983, and always believed he was the target of a 'hit-man,' after receiving death threats and became the victim of two burglaries.

70.2: OTHER NEWSPAPER LINKS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF WESTMINSTER CSA

1. **70.3: Cop who 'found Cyril Smith in sex beast's home with teen boys told to forget what he saw' – Daily Mirror 19/3/15:**

The now retired officer claims he was threatened with the Official Secrets Act and that just weeks ago an anonymous caller told him to keep his mouth shut:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/cop-who-found-cyril-smith-5360557>

2. **70.4: Head of paedophile campaign group PIE 'stored material at Home Office' – Independent 7/7/14.** Steven Adrian Smith said he kept material where police would never find it: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/head-of-paedophile-campaign-group-pie-stored-material-at-home-office-9589051.html>

3. **70.5: The alleged paedophile ring at the heart of the British Establishment – Telegraph 6/7/14:** Investigation in to alleged child abuse ring in Westminster dogged by claims of cover ups and missing files:
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10950111/The-alleged-paedophile-ring-at-the-heart-of-the-British-Establishment.html>

4. **70.6: Margaret Thatcher wanted to keep paedophile diplomat's name secret – Business Insider newspaper 2/2/15:** New documents released by the Cabinet Office show that Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative prime minister, attempted to prevent the public from learning about paedophilia accusations against senior diplomat Sir Peter Hayman.
 70.7: Hayman, who died in 1992, was [investigated by police in 1978 for possessing obscene literature](#), but was not prosecuted. However, in 1984 the former deputy director of the British secret service was convicted of gross indecency following an incident in a public lavatory. The new information comes to light as a file, compiled between October 1980 and March 1981, has finally been released [following the revelation of its existence by Sky News last month](#).
<http://uk.businessinsider.com/margaret-thatcher-attempted-to-keep-paedophile-diplomat-name-hidden-2015-2?r=US&IR=T>

5. **70.8: Missing dossier on alleged paedophile ring handed to MP – Telegraph 21/10/15:** Dossier is believed to be a copy of evidence handed to then Home Secretary Leon Brittan by Conservative MP Geoffrey Dickens in 1984:
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/child-protection/11946177/Missing-dossier-on-alleged-paedophile-ring-handed-to-MP.html>

6. **70.9: John Mann MP says scale of historical child abuse claims 'too many for state' – BBC News 1/1/15:** The number of victims claiming historical child abuse could reach the tens of thousands and is too many for the state to cope with, an MP says: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30647646>

7. **71.0: Tory child abuse whistleblower: 'I supplied underage rent boys for Margaret Thatcher's cabinet ministers' – Daily Mirror 13/7/14:** Whistleblower and former Conservative party activist Anthony Gilberthorpe says he provided child prostitutes for a sex and drugs party with top politicians:
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/tory-child-abuse-whistleblower-i-3848987>

8. **71.1: Leon Brittan told MP 'police don't always need names of those receiving indecent porn' : Daily Mirror 12/11/14:** Leon Brittan said in 1984: "I do not think Customs should supply to the police names and addresses of everyone receiving obscene or indecent articles, regardless of whether an offence has been established:
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/leon-brittan-told-mp-police-4618439>

9. **71.2: Police Are Investigating the Disappearance of a Secret Dossier Allegedly Naming UK Politicians Involved in Child Abuse:** Business Insider newspaper 3/7/14: The story would stretch credulity if it formed the basis of a subplot to "House of Cards." But in fact, it's real: In 1983, Leon Brittan, the former Home Secretary and member of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet, was handed a 40-page dossier naming eight senior civil servants and politicians who were allegedly involved in a secret ring of paedophiles. <http://uk.businessinsider.com/leon-brittan-faces-questions-on-pedophile-dossier-2014-7>

10. **71.3 [Name Redacted] detective: We had proof to charge child sex politician:** Newspaper
Newspaper A senior detective who investigated child abuse allegations against Labour politician Name Redacted has revealed he was ordered to drop the case 'from the very top' – despite uncovering compelling evidence to charge him.

Newspaper

11. **71.4:** There is another link to the alleged Westminster paedophile ring within this additional Daily Telegraph article 6/7/2014, and details about the Wanless inquiry. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10950111/The-alleged-paedophile-ring-at-the-heart-of-the-British-Establishment.html>
12. **71.5:** Mirror 13/7/14. Tory Child Abuse whistleblower, Anthony Gilberthorpe: 'I supplied underage rent boys for Margaret Thatcher's cabinet ministers.' <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/tory-child-abuse-whistleblower-i-3848987>
13. **71.6:** Mirror 13/7/14. Margaret Thatcher knew all about underage sex ring amongst ministers: Anthony Gilberthorpe 40-page dossier: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/tory-child-abuse-whistleblower-margaret-3849172>

**** PLEASE NOTE** – Many additional press notes and copy papers were posted to the CSA inquiry during Autumn 2018 and should be considered as part of my evidence.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

Dated: 29/12/18.

DPA

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Witness Name: Donald Hale OBE
Statement No 2.
Exhibits: See list below.
Dated: 29/12/18.

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Exhibit list supplied by Donald Hale

- **IMPORTANT RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS BY DON HALE WITH SENIOR POLITICIANS/RADIO PRESENTERS ABOUT ALLEGED CSA AT WESTMINSTER:**

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/1, which is a YouTube TV video of Harriet Harman being interviewed by Laura Kuenneseberg, for BBC Newsnight, and talking about her time working with the NCCL and defending PIE. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUOg54ykqME>

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/2. The Westminster Paedophile cover-up with the then Home Secretary Theresa May and Don Hale on BBC Radio 4 Today programme about 3 years ago. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrlsBstotR0>

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/3. LBC Radio, Don Hale talking with James O'Brien about the Westminster paedophile scandal on 11/12/14.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSZeJvQKlw>

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/3. The Wanless Whitewash – Don Hale talking on BBC Radio 4 Today programme about the aftermath of the Peter Wanless inquiry.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ9qxkuQyP0>

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/4. Barbara Castle's files told of Westminster paedophile cover up about 4 years ago. ITV news. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lySSF53l9sM>

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT AB/5. Newsnight report – with Nick Hopkins, March 2015 – Police scrapped Westminster paedophile inquiry and links to Cyril Smith.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6PEH-jVT4c>

LIST OF LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF CSA

AB/6: Geoffrey Dickens letter. 17/8/83.

AB/7: Government committee meeting minutes regarding Dickens Dossier 23/11/83.

AB/8: PIE letter – newsletter and information sheet c March 1975.

AB/9: Copy letter from Home Secretary Leon Brittan to Geoffrey Dickens 20/3/84.

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS: Dated and acknowledged where possible.

AB/10: Daily Mirror 18/3/81: MP defies porn case plea.

AB/11: The times 31/8/83: Two years cover up on dirty pictures.

AB/12: Daily Star 23/8/82: Ban the PIE men.

AB/13: Daily Express 25/8/83: Eight top names on my list of shame – Geoffrey Dickens.

AB/14: Daily Express 5/9/83: Child sex purge scares top men:

AB/15: Government apathy on PIE criticised.

AB/16: Daily Mail 3/11/83: Guard for hit list MP:

AB/17: News of the World 6/11/83: Lane fox is caught in big chase:

AB/18: Daily Express 25/11/83: The dossier that shocked the Home Secretary:

AB/19: A whimper from Brittan.

AB/20: Daily Express: Brittan goes one step at a time.

AB/21: Daily Mail 24/8/83: Sex with children – DPP gets names.

AB/22: 24/8/83: Why the Yard acted on PIE.

AB/23: News of the World 9/1/83: Scare over sex club spy – Geoffrey Prime.

AB/24: 12/11/82: Prime links with child sex group.

AB/25: The Guardian 16/11/82: MPs continue to press for debate on Prime affair.

AB/26: Daily Mail 21/7/82: Computer men to probe spy links.

Ends: