

Annex D – What we asked

Letter dated 17 July 2014 from the Director General of the Crime and Policing Group, Home Office

Dear Colleagues

CHILD SEX ABUSE

As you are aware, on 7 July, the Home Secretary announced two separate inquiries relating to child sex abuse: an independent inquiry panel (“Inquiry Panel”) to consider whether and the extent to which public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and a review (“the Review”) of the independent investigations, commissioned in 2013 by the Home Office’s Permanent Secretary. I am writing to provide further details of these and to suggest related action which your departments may wish to take.

The Review

The Home Secretary appointed Peter Wanless, the Chief Executive of the NSPCC, and Richard Whittam QC to review the independent investigations commissioned last year by the Permanent Secretary to look at two separate issues: firstly whether the Home Office received any information about organised child sex abuse between 1979 to 1999; and secondly whether the Home Office had ever funded the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE). The Review will consider whether those investigations were carried out appropriately and whether their conclusions are robust. In addition and importantly, the Review will also examine how the police and prosecuting authorities receiving information from the Home Office handled that information when it was referred to them. I attach the terms of reference of the Review to this letter for your information. It is worth noting that the two independent investigations referred to immediately above are referred to as “reviews” in the terms of reference.

Action for Other Departments

I know a number of you are already planning searches of your departmental records, akin to those undertaken by the Home Office for the independent investigations. Of course, the Review described above will establish whether those searches were adequate, but I thought you would wish to see the search terms used by the investigator conducting the independent review of Home Office files. I have attached the list of initial search terms (as the investigation continued, more precise search terms were added, including names of individuals). Some of the search criteria are wide and it may be these are not appropriate in your department but my view is that undertaking similar searches should enable you to establish whether your department has:

- any information relevant to Peter Wanless’ and Richard Whittam’s review; and
- any information relevant to allegations of child sex abuse more broadly and whether it was appropriately referred to the police or other appropriate authorities in the past.

It may also assist in identifying information relevant to the Inquiry Panel. I think it would be appropriate for Departments to proceed in a co-ordinated manner and would suggest

that you seek to conclude the initial search of your databases to identify potentially relevant files by Friday 15 August.

Before that date I will provide more details of how Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC wish to handle information from departments and whether they wish departments to use any additional search terms.

SEARCH TERMS

Terms
Geoffrey Dickens, Dicken(s),
General Correspondence, letter(s),
Director of Public Prosecution, DPP
Metropolitan Police Service, MPS, Met, Police, Commissioner
NSPCC
HM Customs and Excise, HMCE, CE HM Customs & Excise, HMC&E, C&E, Customs
Importation, imported, imports
Postal, posted, post, seizure(s), seized, detected
Evade, evaded, evasion, smuggle, smuggling, smuggled, concealed
Prohibition, prohibited, pornography, pornographic, indecent, illegal,
Paedophilia, paedophile, paedophiles, paedophile ring, network, organised, paedophile information exchange, PIE
Child abuse, abused, abusers, child offence, sex offence, sexual offence, sexual abuse, rape, molester, molested, molestation, indecent, assault, child prostitution, buggery, pervert, perversion, trafficker, trafficking
Homosexual, homosexuality
boy(s), girl(s), young person(s), under age, age of consent, teenage, teenager
'Children of God', cult(s), satanic, satanist, satanism, ritual(s), ritualistic, witch, witchcraft, coven(s), voodoo, voodooism, voodooist, occult
Children's home(s), residential home(s), care home(s), youth home(s), youth hostel(s), residential family centre(s), community home(s), institution, institutionalised
'boarded out', approved school(s), borstal(s), youth custody centre(s)
Dossier(s), report(s), abuse inquiries, abuse enquiries, abuse investigation(s)
Alleged, allege, allegation(s), complaint(s), complainant(s)
Investigate, investigated, investigation(s) prosecute, prosecuted, prosecution(s),

charge(s), charged, criminal proceedings, criminal trial, convicted, conviction(s), guilty, not guilty, acquitted, acquittal(s), offender(s)

Victim(s), trafficked

Letter dated 6 August 2014 from the Director General of the Crime and Policing Group, Home Office

CHILD SEX ABUSE

Further to my letter of 17 July I am writing as promised to provide you with more detail on the search terms required by Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC who, as you know, are leading the Review of the independent investigations commissioned by this Department last year. I know that some of you have begun this work as well as work around the wider searches for the Panel Inquiry, and have sought further advice from us on whether it is possible to narrow the proposed list of search terms. Colleagues from relevant Departments met on 30 July to discuss this issue.

I appreciate that a number of colleagues have come back to say that the search terms that were attached to my original letter have identified a large number of potentially relevant files. At the meeting on 30 July a narrower set of search terms were discussed and these have now been agreed by Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam as appropriate for the Review. These narrower terms are attached.

Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC have asked for a search to be carried out for any information that your Department might hold, in respect to previously specified search terms, relating to the period 1979 through to 1999 either (i) received from, (ii) sent to the Home Office or (iii) material that makes mention of the Home Office, Home Office Ministers or Home Office officials. Peter and Richard will require assurances with regards to the methodology around your searches as well as an audit trail and a record of what was undertaken and the results. I would ask that priority is given to this work over the wider work searching for material relevant to the Panel Inquiry as set out in my earlier letter.

To summarise this involves cumulatively:

- searching your records for material that includes the search terms in the annex to this letter;
- checking that such material relates to 1979-1999; and
- sifting through those results for documents or messages which either were received from or sent to the Home Office or which mention the Home Office, its ministers or officials.

It is only the material identified as a result of each of these processes that is requested by the reviewers. If you are concerned by the volume of work involved in this request, do please let us know and we will investigate whether it needs to be undertaken instead as part of the wider panel review.

In addition to these search terms there will be a short list of further search requests from the Review concerning specified individuals and institutions. Given the sensitivities of these terms, I will arrange for this list to be delivered by hand to a single point of contact within each department. Where departments have identified a lead official, this will be delivered to them. I would be grateful if you could provide details of your nominated person to the Secretary to the Review, [REDACTED], who is copied into this e-mail if you have not done so already.

The deadline for all Departments to respond remains the 15 August.

SEARCH TERMS (Wanless/Whittam Review)

Terms
Geoffrey Dickens
Paedophilia, paedophile, paedophiles, paedophile ring, network, organised, paedophile information exchange, PIE, P.I.E., pedaphile (sic), pedophilia (sic), child pornography
Child sexual abuse, child prostitution, child abuse.
Dossier(s), abuse inquiries, abuse enquiries, abuse investigation(s)

Peter Wanless/Richard Whittam QC Review

List of additional names/places for searches

Cyril Smith
Leon Brittan
Greville Janner
(Sir) Peter Morrison
(Sir) Peter Hayman
David Atkinson
George Thomas
Sir Nicholas Fairbairn
Peter Righton
Michael Hanson
Warren Middleton
Steven Adrian Smith
Tom O'Carroll
Charles Napier aka Roger Nash
Peter Bremner
David Joy
Charles Oxley

Elm Guest House
Dolphin Square
Knowl View School
Kincora