

Key Document 47

Further Email Chain concerning the reply to the then MP for Keighley and coverage on Channel 4

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 August 2003 16:03
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 August 2003 15:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

[REDACTED]

For information.
The emails below relate to the articles that I have sent up to you.

Regards

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 August 2003 12:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

[REDACTED]

Press office faxed through the Yorkshire Post articles (mentioned below) to my units fax number, even though they were presumably meant for you as they had your name on. I have taken copies as I also requested them, but have put a copy in the internal post for you, in case press office didn't fax them directly to you as well.

[REDACTED]

Criminal Procedure and Evidence Unit
Home Office
Room 356, 50 Queen Anne's Gate
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2003 16:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

Thanks for this

If you would like me to send you up copies of the 3 Yorks Post articles on this, please can you let me know your fax numbers.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2003 16:38
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

I have now just received these additional lines from [REDACTED] on protections for witnesses. He may also be able to help with info in terms of witnesses giving evidence to an intermediary under the 1999 Act, which may help in these cases.

[REDACTED]

Criminal Procedure and Evidence Unit
Home Office
Room 356, 50 Queen Anne's Gate
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (JVU CPG)
Sent: 27 August 2003 16:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

Thanks for sight of this. I don't know whether I have missed the boat but you might reinforce this with the following about protections for witnesses in sexual offence proceedings (also see addition to the special measures bullet below):

- Since 2000 a defendant charged with a sexual offence has been prohibited from cross-examining the complainant in person. This prohibition also covers cases involving child complaints and other child witnesses in a range of offences including sexual offences, kidnapping, cruelty and violence.
- Restrictions have also been placed on the admission of evidence about complainants' previous sexual history in sex offence trials. It limits the questions that a rape victim can be asked so that she does not have to go through the distressing and unnecessary experience of being cross-examined about this.

[REDACTED]

Justice and Witnesses Unit
Room 339 QAG
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2003 13:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (JVU CPG); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

[REDACTED]

I have drawn up some lines on the use in court of hearsay evidence from fearful witnesses. I have also included a related bullet point about helping young/frightened witness give evidence ([REDACTED] - I have drawn on BARD for this line and also attach the original letter for your info):

- The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 contains a range of special measures to assist vulnerable or intimidated witnesses to give evidence in court. These provisions include giving evidence by a live television link from outside the courtroom, and allowing an interview with the witness, which has been video recorded before the trial, to be shown as the witness's evidence in chief. Live link and video recorded evidence are now the normal way of giving evidence for child witnesses in cases involving sexual offences.
- The Criminal Justice Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provision to make reported evidence or "hearsay" more readily admissible where, for example, a person is too frightened to attend court.
- The Bill relaxes current limitations on the use of a statement from such person, for example that it must be given to a police officer and be written down.
- It also gives the court new discretion to allow hearsay to be used where this is in the interests of justice.
- The intention behind these reforms is to enable courts to hear a wider range of relevant evidence, although the limits of this sort of evidence need to be recognised - in particular that the victim's statement will not have been tested by cross-examination.

[REDACTED]

Criminal Procedure and Evidence Unit
 Home Office
 Room 356, 50 Queen Anne's Gate
 Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2003 11:47
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2003 11:38
To: [REDACTED] Grice Deborah Mary; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

channel 4 news have now approached our newsdesk [REDACTED] asking for a statement from Home Sec.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2003 11:27
To: Grice Deborah Mary; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Letter re child sexual abuse & coverage on CH4

Although the home office has not been contacted by Channel 4 news - I gather from a contact there that the story's about young Asian men grooming and allegedly raping white girls in Keighley West Yorks. Channel 4 say apparently the Home Sec's been having discussions with the local MP up there Anne Cryer who claims it's a cultural problem to do with arranged marriages.

The film's going out tonight (Friday) on Channel 4 News and there are plans for a debate tomorrow night (Sat) on the issues. The story has been done by their northern reporter Justin Rowlatt.

Grateful for assistance with lines to take.

[REDACTED] has provided the following - but it does not address the issue of arranged marriages/race issue.

- The Govt takes the issue of sex with children very seriously. Child abuse, and protecting our children from abuse is of the highest priority.
- We will do all that we can to prosecute abusers wherever possible and to provide the police and the courts with adequate powers to do this we have introduced a new range of offences, carrying severe penalties, in the Sexual Offences Bill. This new legislation will send the clear message that underage sex is unlawful and, in circumstances where children are deemed to be particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, the law will protect them up to the age of 18.
- We have no intention of reducing the age of consent, which is well respected and well understood. In addition, we are strengthening the law in relation to children under 13 with new offences based on the premise that children below that age are unable to give legally significant consent to any form of sexual activity. Whilst we acknowledge that children under the age of 13 may be capable of understanding sexual acts and may agree to engage in sexual activity we firmly believe that the law has a duty to protect children from engaging in sexual activity at such a young age. The new legislation will make it clear that sexual activity with children under 13 is wholly unacceptable, and will mean that children under 13 will not have to face cross-examination about their understanding of sexual matters in court.
- As well as these legislative measures, we need to make sure that we can identify children at risk and that those in the frontline are trained to respond and offer support to both the children and their parents. Helping parents to recognise the signs - and making sure they know what they can do and where they can turn to for support - is essential. Some of this work will be considered in the Children at Risk green paper - which will be published shortly. The paper

will look at the range of services provided for children and will identify radical options for improving provision and service delivery based on early intervention and prevention.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 August 2003 17:01

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Goggins Paul (Submissions); Blears Hazel (Submissions); Gieve John

(Submissions); Grice Deborah Mary; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mactaggart Fiona (Submissions); [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Letter re child sexual abuse & possible coverage on CH4
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

We spoke. Please find attached letter from Ann Cryer's office referring to allegations of child sexual abuse in her constituency. Also attached is a letter she has recently sent to the local police and another that is apparently on its way to the HS.

The gist is that it is alleged that a number of Asian young men are abusing minors in Ann's constituency but the police and social services are failing to act. The mothers of those suffering from the alleged abuse are seeking a change in the law to allow hearsay evidence to be considered (i.e. evidence from the parents given the reluctance of the minors involved to give evidence).

As you will see, HS met one of the mothers when he went to the CROP conference in Leeds though there doesn't appear to be a direct link with prostitution.

I know you are already trying to find out from Channel 4 what coverage on this they are planning but our lines will need to be linked to investigations of child sexual abuse etc rather than prostitution.

You will also see that the key issue of concern to Ann Cryer is that she suggests the police are failing to take any action because of fear of trespassing on cultural sensitivities, though of course we don't yet know the police's story on this.

I am not sure if the letter to HS is already being dealt with through other channels but grateful if you [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] could provide a reply for Hazel Blears to send please. I have a very vague recollection of previous correspondence on this same issue and we may have replied to Ann previously.

[REDACTED]
PS/Home Secretary
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Outer Office

Sent: 21 August 2003 16:35

To: [REDACTED] (Submissions)

Subject: Ann Cryer MP for Keighley. 21 aug.tif

Annex F

Evidence submitted by External Parties

Annex F: Evidence Submitted by External Parties

1. We are grateful to the former researcher, the charity PACE (formerly the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping, or CROP) and the University of Bedfordshire for supplying evidence to the Internal Review.
2. Evidence supplied by these parties is provided in this annex.

[REDACTED]

4 December 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your email dated 17 November 2015.

I have, in this email, tried to assist as far as I am able to. I have to say at the outset however that I have very little in terms of written documentation. At the time that I was employed on the Home Office pilot, I did not have a Rotherham MBC email account, but instead used two personal email accounts, both of which no longer exist. Although I printed copies of many of the emails I sent, when the pilot ended I gave all of my documents to CROP in Leeds for safe keeping. You may recall that they were partners with Rotherham MBC both in the drafting of the original bid for the Home Office funding, and in the pilot's administration. Jalna Hanmer, who was a CROP Trustee, was also my research supervisor and mentor. I gave the documents to CROP because the end of the pilot was so traumatic that I did not want to keep them in my possession. I gave them to CROP, knowing that they understood both the confidential nature and the importance of the documents.

When Andrew Norfolk published his first article in The Times in 2012, and the Home Affairs Select Committee was established, I realised that there may be questions asked about the pilot and attempted to recover my data from CROP. I discovered that at least half of the data had either been lost or destroyed when CROP had moved business premises.

Consequently I have few documents in my possession. My information mainly comes from contemporaneous notes that I made in bound notebooks that I kept during the pilot and which I now have access to, although the final notebook relating to the last few months of the pilot is missing. I have a copy of an undated letter from the Home Office ending the evaluation process of the pilot (referenced below) and a copy of a letter of grievance that I raised with the council and sent to the Home Office. In terms

of the involvement and knowledge of the Home Office I can comment as follows, having consulted these documents:

My main points of contact at the Home Office were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was based in London and [REDACTED] was based in Yorkshire, I believe that she was the Government Office representative. I had more contact with them than anticipated as in 2001 concerns were raised by CROP that the evaluators (from the University of Luton) were evaluating the Risky Business Project instead of my work. Additionally CROP felt that the evaluators were appropriating and presenting my research as their own work. Consequently there were several meetings to discuss and resolve this, both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were present. I had a good relationship with both and when the issues referred to in my respective statements to HASC began to arise, I contacted them both for advice and support. I had a Home Office email for [REDACTED] and both a Home Office and personal email for [REDACTED] through a Freeserve account.

My hand written notes show that both were present at a meeting in Rotherham on 23 April 2002. This meeting took place after I had submitted the interim data to the evaluators. Before that meeting took place I had a meeting with my managers where I was reminded that the events of the preceding week (removal of my data and attempted disciplinary action) were confidential matters concerning Rotherham MBC and were not to be discussed with the Home Office. Nevertheless my notes from that meeting show that some of the difficulties experienced by the pilot were discussed, including Rotherham, MBC asking for the data back so that it could be sanitised and 'managed'. I clearly recall not being left alone with the Home Office at all during that meeting. My notes show that after the meeting I telephoned [REDACTED] at the Home Office and made her aware of what was happening and of my concerns. I informed her that my data had been removed without my knowledge or consent from the office and that it was missing. I also told her that I was concerned about what would happen if the data was returned to the Council.

When pressure was put on me to change my research findings in June 2002 I had conversations with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in which they both expressed surprise at what was happening and told me that I would receive support. I have a very clear recollection of both of these conversations. I copied [REDACTED] into a letter of grievance dated 28 June 2002 which makes reference to both the removal of data and attempts to persuade me to alter the presentation of my research findings.

Following this however I received no further contact from the Home Office and subsequent attempts to contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were unsuccessful, as my telephone calls and emails went unanswered.

I also contacted the University of Bedfordshire regarding what was happening. They sent a member of the research team ([REDACTED]) to meet me in Yorkshire. I had a lengthy meeting with [REDACTED] and she took extensive notes. She assured me

that the University of Bedfordshire would support me. I never heard from the Home Office evaluators again. I am not aware if they made the Home Office aware of what I had shared with them and the concerns that I had that my research findings were being suppressed, perpetrators left unchallenged and young people left at risk of further abuse.

I was liaising with CROP throughout this time, and they too were speaking to the Home Office and raising concerns. I believe from speaking to Jalna Hanmer recently that their point of contact was [REDACTED]. Hopefully from the enquiries you have made from CROP, this information will have been provided to you.

I also have in my possession an undated letter from [REDACTED] to my former Rotherham MBC manager Christine Broadhurst-Brown. The letter states that the evaluation process for the pilot was being terminated and explains the reasons why. That letter was also copied to [REDACTED] (S.O.U. Home Office), [REDACTED] (S.O.U. Home Office), [REDACTED] (Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber), and [REDACTED] (PCRU Home Office).

Before leaving my employment with Rotherham MBC, I drafted a research report. Chapter Four makes reference to both the findings in terms of the scale of CSE in Rotherham and the difficulties the Pilot encountered. I sent this to a number of people in Rotherham MBC, as well as South Yorkshire Police, the evaluators, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

There is no doubt in my mind that the people I had contact with in the Home Office were aware of two things. Firstly that there were issues with a number of adult male perpetrators sexually exploiting, and abusing a number of vulnerable children. Secondly that a number of services, including social care and the police were failing to act to address or investigate this abuse, or those responsible. That in fact a great deal of effort was being made to suppress and challenge my research findings which came from a number of professional sources, as well as the Risky Business project and some of the victims.

I genuinely believed when I submitted my final report and a copy of my grievance letter that some action would be taken by the Home Office. In reality, I heard nothing further apart from a telephone conversation with [REDACTED] in October 2002 reprimanding me for mentioning that I had been involved in the pilot in publicity for a forthcoming training course run by GC Legal Training.

I regret that I cannot provide more definitive evidence of what I am saying. I am sure that you appreciate however that this was an extremely difficult and challenging experience for me. As a result, the events of the final few months of the pilot are very clearly etched on my memory, and although I can no longer access my email accounts, I do have my note book to refer to.

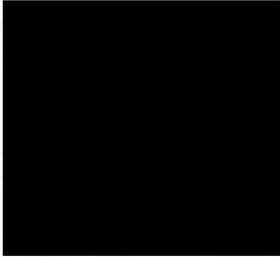
I am attaching a copy of the letter of grievance sent to Rotherham MBC and the Home Office on 28 June 2002. I assume you will have a copy of the undated letter sent from the Home Office ending the evaluation of the pilot (I believe that this was sent in or around August 2002). If you do not have a copy and would like sight of this, please let me know.

If you would find copies of my handwritten notes, helpful please let me know. I would say however that they were written for my benefit, rather than with the knowledge that at some point they might be scrutinised as a form of evidence. Consequently they are neither as comprehensive nor as neatly written as I would like.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

With best wishes

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



28 June 2002

Dear Sir

Re: Employment with the Risky Business Project Home Office Pilot: Notification of Grievance

I am employed on a Home Office pilot based in the Risky Business Project. The project is located in the Youth Service. My post was created in partnership with an organisation, CROP, based in Leeds. I am employed by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and funded by the Home Office. I am line managed by the youth service and my research is managed and supervised by a Director from CROP.

I am writing to you as I wish to lodge a formal grievance against Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and my managers as follows:

1. In April 2002 an investigation was conducted by my line manager, Christine Brodhurst-Brown, concerning an alleged breach of contract. This related to data I had sent to the Home Office evaluators. I became aware that many other members of the youth service knew of the investigation. Comments that were made to me indicated knowledge of some facts of which I was previously unaware (i.e. who was being interviewed during the investigation). This led me to believe that people involved in the investigation were discussing this with other members of the youth service. Consequently I complained to my line manager. She commented that some of the people involved in the investigation may have been indiscreet. I found this very distressing and humiliating.
2. I was informed of the investigation on 18 April 2002. On 19 April 2002 I visited the project office to collect some data that I thought I would need for the investigative meeting. Data belonging to me had been taken from the filing cabinets. One of the project co-ordinators also had documents removed. I formally complained about this to the Project Co-ordinators and my line manager. To the best of my knowledge this matter has not been taken any further. The data has never been returned.
3. On 19 April 2002 when I visited the project office I also could not find some minutes which I wished to consider. The project co-ordinator assisted me in accessing the computer. I discovered three versions of the same minutes relating to a meeting which had taken place in December. The trashcan was also full of documents which had been erased, saved with the text erased and then placed in the trashcan.
4. The investigative meeting was held on 22 April 2002. I was accompanied by my legal representative. I was told I would be informed of the outcome shortly. On the 17 May 2002. I visited the project office. All correspondence is usually sent

to my home address. A letter from my line manager concerning the investigation had however been placed in the postroom at the International Centre. The envelope was not marked 'Private and Confidential'. The envelope had been opened, the letter removed and not replaced correctly. As a result the confidential contents could easily be seen. The letter was recovered by the Project Co-ordinator. We agreed that the letter had the appearance of having been handled several times.

5. My contract was due to end with the expiration of Home Office funding in March 2002. When further funding was provided the contract was extended to August 2002. At a meeting on 5 April 2002 it was agreed that the same terms and conditions would apply. During the course of the year I had received increments and an honorarium for additional pieces of work which had taken my salary to SO2:34. It was agreed I would continue to be paid at the enhanced rate (SO2:34). Since March 2002 I have however been paid at a lower rate. I have asked my line manager to remedy this on a number of occasions but without success.
6. Other expenses have remained unpaid since March 2002. I have received some travel expenses but nothing else. These outstanding expenses now total around £100 plus some travelling expenses which remain unpaid.
7. In December 2001 confirmation was received that the Risky Business Project staff would receive clinical supervision. I have repeatedly requested this. At the time of writing this letter I have not been granted access to this supervision.
8. I have still to receive a risk assessment. In April 2002 I was given a copy of a draft assessment which had been prepared without consulting me, and which I felt was unworkable. I was asked to respond to it in writing. I did so within the week. Despite this being over two months ago, I am still without a risk assessment in what is acknowledged to be a risky and dangerous area of work.
9. Since the conclusion of the investigation, I have been required to send all documents intended for recipients external to the youth service to my line manager for approval. In three months, approximately 10% of the documents sent in have been approved, the others remain outstanding. This has impeded me, particularly since I have been under pressure to send data in to the evaluators.
10. On the 18 April myself and other members of the Risky Business Project were asked to attend a meeting. I was told that henceforward I would not be attending various professional meetings in Rotherham. I was told "Top important people are dealing with this issue now". This made me feel demeaned and undervalued. At that meeting I was also prevented from attending a meeting with representatives from the Key Players group which I had arranged for that morning. I felt this significantly undermined my role.
11. Since the 28 April I have been obstructed in carrying out the research element of my role. I have been refused permission to attend any meetings. I have not been given access to any data or minutes from strategically important meetings that have taken place and that I previously had access to. Despite an agreement at the meeting on the 5 April that the pilot should focus on work with the police and CPS, my line manager has not permitted me to these meetings up. Consequently I have not been able to meet the pilot targets.
12. As explained above the investigation against me arose from data sent to the Home Office evaluators. The concerns arose from some case studies sent to the evaluators. Some professionals working with young women accessing the project were named. On 23 April at a meeting with myself, my managers, members of the steering group, the Home Office and evaluators concerning another issue, a

request was made that the case studies be returned so the names could be removed.

On the 15 May 2002 I was told by my line manager that the case studies had been returned on the 23 April. A meeting had taken place to discuss the amendments. I had been excluded from this meeting. I felt that I should be involved in amending my own work. This was agreed. I was then made aware that the case studies had been distributed to managers in social services and the police. I was not told the specific reason for this and was caused anxiety as a result.

On the 11 June the case studies were returned to me in triplicate. Also returned was all of the data I had sent to the evaluation team in March. Copies of that had also been distributed. The documents were covered in hand-written comments. Some were extremely vitriolic and personalised. Some challenged the validity of the data. Comments were made that some of the data was irrelevant. Some of the data was deleted. I was told that I was being given 3 working days to amend the data as requested by the hand-written comments. This deadline was changed to the 3rd July after I protested it was unreasonable. I also pointed out that I could show the factual basis my results were based on, that carrying out the amendments would not show the true research results and was not what was agreed with the Home Office, because the Home Office own the data. I was told that I had been told to do something and I would do it. I was also told not to discuss this issue with anyone, an impossible position when my post was created in partnership with another organisation and with targets established with the Home Office.

Since the data was returned to me, I have received numerous telephone calls and emails to check I am on schedule, that I am making the amendments and so on. I have been told this is to meet a deadline agreed with the Home Office/evaluators when this is not the case. The deadline is one imposed by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council managers.

Additionally £15,000 was given to CROP by Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Fund in March 2002. It was agreed that this would be paid to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to allow my role to continue after August 2002. Despite indicating to me that this is still the intention, my line manager has made comments to CROP and the Steering Group which indicate my employment will terminate in August 2002.

In summary I have been demeaned; my professional integrity and judgement have been questioned without justification; my position has been consistently undermined; and I have been obstructed in my attempts to continue with the work of the pilot. My health has suffered as a result. I feel that the position has become intolerable.

I feel all of the above consist a grievance which I must bring to your attention. I should be obliged if you would look into this matter on my behalf.

I look forward to hearing from you within the requisite time period.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Mr. A. Swann
Head of Human Resources
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Norfolk House
Walker Place
Rotherham
South Yorkshire

[REDACTED]
Department of Education Culture and Leisure

[REDACTED]
Unison

[REDACTED]
Raleys Solicitors

[REDACTED]
Home Office