

Witness Name: ROBERT GLEN

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: 1

Dated : 6th January 2019

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of ROBERT GLEN

I, Robert Glen, will say as follows: -

1. I joined the Metropolitan Police aged 19 in March 1963, having previously served as a cadet. As a PC I was stationed originally at Balham where after 3 years service I transferred to Thames Division. I served less than a year with Thames before returning to Balham in 1967. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1969 and worked as a uniform officer in South London at Camberwell and Carter Street. As a Sergeant I joined A2 (1) Branch at New Scotland Yard working in the field office undertaking operation research and duties on division, before being promoted to the rank of Uniform Inspector and posted to Bow Street in October 1974. In August 1977 I transferred from Bow Street to Clubs Office at West End Central Police Station (Clubs Office was a unit specifically established to tackle obscene publications, vice and illegal gambling in the West End) It was manned by uniformed officers who during their attachment operated in plain clothes. The teams consisted of 1 Sergeant and 2 Police Constables. The office was divided into 2 sections, one principally dealing with obscene publications and the other dealing with vice and illegal gaming. The until handling the Obscene publications was supervised by an inspector who oversaw 2 teams, each team being 1 Sergeant and 2 Constables, whereas vice had 3 teams, also supervised by an inspector, each with Sergeant and 3 Constables. It was normal practice to be in the Clubs Office for at least 6-9 months and no more than 12 months, running various operations. I believe the underlying rationale of 12 months was to prevent corruption. It would be unusual for the obscene publications team to overlap with the vice team. Clubs Office was not set up specifically to deal with paedophiles, however because of the covert nature of the work and the area of operation, paedophiles could be of interest.
2. After my period in Clubs Office I returned to Vine Street and then as an Inspector to A2(1) field office at Scotland Yard. My next posting was a uniform inspector to Marylebone where I was promoted to Chief Inspector. I then moved to Clapham and before moving to Brixton where I was the Complaints Chief Inspector. I remained in that post for approximately 18 months. I transferred back to New Scotland Yard and was posted to Complaints Investigation Branch CIB3 as the Force Discipline Chief Inspector. I then returned to Marylebone prior to being promoted to Superintendent.

As a Superintendent I spent approximately 2 years at Greenwich and then the Territorial Support (TSG) for about 18 months to 2 years. From there I worked in Territorial operations TO26 (Thames Division) and TO29 Air Support as well as undertaking Anti-Terrorist Coordinating Operations (Pulsar Search Teams). I retired from the Metropolitan Police in March 1994.

3. I have reviewed the statement I provided to the police dated 27 July 2015 attached as exhibit RG1. I recall giving that statement and I confirm the contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have added further information and clarification below by way of this statement clarifying for example that I retired in 1994 and not 1995. The matters contained in both statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. It was whilst serving in Clubs Office as the Vice Inspector that I first became aware of Cyril Smith. I cannot recall if the information relating to Cyril Smith was as a result of a specific complaint, but I was aware that a covert operation was being conducted as to his behaviour. Each observation specifically to vice lasted for approximately 2-3 weeks, where evidence was gained to justify arrest and subsequent prosecution.
5. Clubs Office was headed by a Chief Superintendent, there was no Chief Inspector of Superintendent which was unusual, the chain command therefore jumped straight from myself as inspector to Chief Superintendent. It was common practice each Monday for the both Inspectors to brief the Chief Superintendent as to the progress of various operations and investigations. During my time at Clubs Office the Chief Superintendent was Tom Parry, he was in charge of the unit. However there was a time when he was absent for a number of weeks, he was out of the country for possibly 3 weeks in Hong Kong. Whilst he was absent cover was provided by the Chief Superintendent Neil Diver on a temporary basis, whilst he was Chief Superintendent at Vine Street. He undertook his normal role as divisional Chief Superintendent and made the occasional visit to Clubs Office, including the Monday briefings.
6. On one particular Monday morning whilst Chief Superintendent Diver was supervising, myself and my colleague undertook our normal Monday briefing. Immediately after the briefing I asked to see Mr Diver alone, due to the sensitive nature of the information I was about to relay. I explained to him that one of our teams had undertaken a covert operation on the MP Cyril Smith, in relation to indecency with children. There was sufficient evidence to obtain a warrant for the arrest of the MP and it was my intention to lay information before the Chief Magistrate at Bow Street Magistrates court on the following Thursday to obtain a warrant for his arrest. Having presented this information to Mr Diver I can only say he was extremely concerned to the point of being angry. I cannot recall the exact words used by Mr Diver but his reaction was to effect that we should have never have got involved and as far as I can recall it was too sensitive and too political and the operation should cease immediately. Knowing how much police time had been spent undertaking the particular operation I was extremely frustrated and annoyed at his decision, knowing also that the evidence that had been gathered was so strong and

that Cyril Smith had clearly been involved in illegal activities with children. I remember his reaction clearly and vividly because of the anger in his face and because of how bitterly opposed he was to the investigation. I was obviously upset because by this stage the team had spent many man-hours over the space of approximately 2-3 weeks investigating and they had strong evidence to support a warrant.

7. Having been instructed by Mr Diver to shut the operation down I contacted the Sergeant responsible who I think was Richard Griffin but it is possible it was another Sergeant because at the time there were 3-4 teams running in Clubs office. Peter Lamb and Richard known as Dick Griffin are the only two names I can recall at this time but it was definitely a Sergeant attached to the vice unit. I remember their reaction being one of disappointment.
8. As set out in my statement of 2015, I then spoke to Name Redacted Name Redacted who was the next available rank up from the Chief Superintendent within the Clubs Office, explaining what had occurred and the decision Chief Superintendent Diver had reached. He declined to get involved. My impression was that he didn't want to get involved and was also wary of going behind Mr Diver's back. He didn't provide any other reasons as to why he took that decision. Other than that there was no else I could go to with the concerns. The operation was therefore shut down and I had no further involvement in work or allegations in relation to Cyril Smith after that time. There should in my opinion have been a Chief Inspector and Superintendent in post to separate our ranks but there wasn't.
9. The other incident I recall where I was told to shut down an investigation was in relation to the Hilton Hotel Park Lane. At the time we had an operation running of observations at the Garden/Roof top bar at the hotel, where the prime focus of interest was the Manager of the bar. We were observing him, having received information that he would provide high-class escorts/prostitute for clients and guests of the hotel. We were aware that rooms were being kept vacant on the floor immediately below the bar which were made available for escorts and their 'clients', the manager was clearly involved in the organisation of the activity, he would orchestrate the access to the rooms. Such activity was observed by officers in our team under surveillance. This observation was being conducted during the tenure of Mr Diver, therefore both incidents occurred within a short period of each other.
10. Again either that week or the week after the Cyril Smith investigation had been shut down, in the Monday briefing, Diver told the team that we must close the investigation down immediately. I think the Sergeant on the case was Peter Lamb. I recall Peter Lamb was annoyed again due to the time and effort spent on the investigation so far. I recall Peter Lamb saying to me that he only had 2-3 days left on the case, I gave Peter Lamb tacit approval to complete the last few days of work on the basis that I would receive no further information about it and the evidence gathered could be collated and put together and retained until a later date should it be required. As far as I was aware, the matter was concluded.
11. I previously mentioned that Mr Diver was still performing his role as Chief

Superintendent at Vine Street as he was only acting on a temporary basis at the Clubs Office. It was policy at that time for every Division to have a Late Senior Officer who was on duty between 6pm - 2am, to advise and oversee any serious incidents that may occur and this role was performed by Chief Superintendent Diver together with other Superintendent ranks and above. It was the practice in those days for Mr Diver when performing the role of Late Senior Officer to leave the station in plain clothes rather than the uniform as his senior colleagues would. I recall many occasions where Mr Diver would leave Vine Street and not reappear until the early hours of the morning, where he was visibly drunk. It was common knowledge at Vine Street that Mr Diver drank and frequented restaurants and clubs during these shifts and that he was a very heavy drinker. As an officer his behaviour was an utter disgrace.

12. A few days later in the early hours of the morning, I was in the charge room at West End Central charging a prisoner for living off immoral earnings when Sergeant Lamb came in and urgently wanted to speak to me. I asked him if it could wait and he said he had to see me now and so I asked someone to take over caring for the prisoner. Sergeant Lamb told me that he had just come from carrying out observations at the Hilton at the garden/roof bar, and that they had seen Mr Diver enter the bar and spend some time with the Manager who was our prime suspect of that observation. I don't know what they discussed or how long for. It is possible that Mr Diver was the Late Senior that night. I remember this clearly because of the nature of it sticks in my mind. The sighting of Mr Diver was after the Monday briefing when he had told me to shut the operation down. I recall contacting the CIB, the Complaints Investigation Bureau and speaking to someone there raising my concerns about Mr Diver's behaviour and activities but being told that without very clear evidence it was unlikely they could take anything further against a senior officer. I had no further involvement with the investigation regarding the Hilton Hotel.
13. As of 23rd February 1978 my tenure at the Clubs office was over and I therefore returned to Vine Street as a uniformed Inspector. Mr Diver was still at Vine Street upon my return. I don't believe Mr Diver was trustworthy and frequently he would disappear at 7pm in his plain clothes and reappear at 1-2am drunk. If he had been on the streets in that state it is my view he would have been arrested. On returning to the station and entering the front office, he was visibly drunk and had difficulty standing. He would hold on to the furniture for support and stop himself falling over. I recall on one occasion having to ask the driver of an unmarked police patrol car to take Mr Diver home to Sutton, because he was so drunk and unfit to be on duty. The driver returned after a very short time and told me that on crossing Wandsworth Bridge that Mr Diver asked for the car to be stopped, the driver thought he was going to be sick, but then Mr Diver got out and walked off. The driver was concerned after his welfare and safety, not knowing where he had gone in the early hours of the morning.
14. It is a great shame as I believe Chief Superintendent Diver when sober was a very competent officer and we had worked together prior to working in the Clubs Office where he and I had got on well. I think this was during the period when we were working in A8 together when he was a Chief Inspector and we worked on public order for major public events. He did in my opinion change as an individual and

became very argumentative and clearly developed an alcohol problem.

15. In early July 1979 I transferred from Vine Street back to A2 (1) Field Office where I was responsible for the implementation of force policy on projects. It was within a matter of weeks that I received a call from the Inspector of Vine Street whose surname was Jones and I believe his first name was Les. He called me saying words to the effect of "you never guess what" and he told me Mr Diver had been detained at a hotel called the Regent Palace. Inspector Jones was the night duty Duty Officer and had been called to the incident. He told me that Mr Diver had gone to the Regent Palace Hotel to book a room giving a false name. He wanted to pay by cheque for the room but the name on cheque didn't match the name he gave. The hotel security detained him thinking he had either stolen the cheque book or was attempting to commit a fraud. Inspector Jones was told that Mr Diver had entered the reception area with a male youth but on realising that security were being called, the youth had run off. He told me during the phone call that he had seen the CCTV from the hotel and thought the youth a rent boy from Piccadilly Circus. I played no part in the investigation of that incident but Inspector Jones happened to phone me up and tell me what had happened. I heard later that Mr Diver had not been suspended but immediately transferred to Battersea.
16. If the other officers do not corroborate the allegations I make regarding Mr Diver's statement I don't know why that would be. The chain of events stick vividly in my mind given how angry he was and how upset I was at the decision. If others cannot remember, that is their position but at the time we worked in a culture where we did as we were told and you were not encouraged to question operational decisions made by senior officers. I may not be able over 40 years later to remember the conversations word for word but the outcome was the same that the investigations were to be shut down.
17. I cannot recall anyone else within the Clubs Office coming to me and telling me about operations being shut down or being ordered to shut down operations. I don't recall any other investigations we were running being shut down in this way.
18. In relation to any further matters relevant to the Westminster Inquiry investigation, I can only reiterate that the Clubs Office was not established specifically to deal with paedophile activities. However I was certainly aware of male youths making themselves available within the West End area we covered, which was known as the 'meat rack' in Soho. It was difficult as a uniformed officer to deal with such allegations especially as it wasn't my direct remit but it was a known fact and I feel that such issues were simply accepted and not prioritised in terms of policing.

Statement of Truth

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

DPA

Signed:

Dated:

Old January 2019.

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