

Witness Name: WM-A120  
Statement No.: 1  
Exhibits: 16  
Dated: 19 August 2019

## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of WM-A120

I, WM-A120 will say as follows:-

1. My name is WM-A120 I provide this statement of my evidence insofar as it is relevant to the Westminster investigation.

### My background

2. I was born in the London Borough of DPA on DPA 1982. I grew up in the London Borough of DPA with my parents and one younger sibling.
3. As a child I was groomed and sexually abused over a period of several years by David Hubert Boothby Chesshyre (commonly known as Hubert Chesshyre or D.H.B. Chesshyre). I was the sole complainant in a trial of the facts held at Snaresbrook Crown Court in 2015. This trial examined allegations of abuse alleged to have taken place between my thirteenth birthday on DPA 1995 and the day before my sixteenth birthday on DPA 1998. Two offences of indecent assault were proven. Both of these offences were specimen counts representing a larger number of similar offences committed during the period described on the indictment. A third count of indecent assault was ordered to lie on file. Since Mr Chesshyre had been found to be unfit to plead, no conviction ensued and he was granted an absolute discharge by the court. The unanimous finding of the jury was nonetheless that the facts of Mr Chesshyre's offending behaviour had been proven beyond reasonable doubt. During the period when the offences took place Mr Chesshyre was aged between 54 and 57 years.

### Mr Chesshyre's background, offices held and honours awarded

4. Mr Chesshyre is the DPA son of DPA and DPA DPA. Mr Chesshyre was educated at St Michael's Preparatory School, Otford, The King's School, Canterbury, Trinity College, Cambridge (BA, MA), and Christ Church, Oxford (Dip.Ed.) For several years he worked as a schoolmaster (teaching French in England and English in France) and vintner (including periods at Irrelevant and Irrelevant). Mr Chesshyre

served in the Honourable Artillery Company 1964–5 and fired the salute at the state funeral of Winston Churchill. He entered the service of the College of Arms in 1967 and was a Green Staff Officer at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969. He was a member of the Royal Household 1970–2010, holding the following positions: Rouge Croix Pursuivant (1970–8), member of the staff of Garter Principal King of Arms (1971–8), Chester Herald (1978–95), Secretary of the College of Arms Uniform Fund (1980–99), Honorary Genealogist to the Royal Victorian Order (1987–2010), Secretary of the Order of the Garter (1988–2003), Registrar of the College of Arms (1992–2000), Norroy and Ulster King of Arms and Principal Herald of the North part of England and of Northern Ireland and King of Arms, Registrar, and Knight Attendant of the Order of St Patrick (1995–7), and Clarenceux King of Arms and Principal Herald for the South, East, and West parts of England (1997–2010).

5. As an officer of arms, Mr Chesshyre carried out heraldic and genealogical work for important clients including politicians (such as Edward Heath, Michael Heseltine, Betty Boothroyd, and John Bercow), Anglican bishops and other senior clerics, ambassadors, academics, doctors, businessmen, and celebrities. He also carried out heraldic work for corporate clients including Southwark Cathedral and the Diocese of Southwark as well as local authorities, schools, universities, and charities. Mr Chesshyre worked as a heraldic consultant for projects including the reconstruction of St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, the re-enactment of the funeral of Arthur, Prince of Wales, and the design of the west window, Henry VII Lady Chapel, Westminster Abbey. Mr Chesshyre has also written on heraldry, the Order of the Garter, and local history.
6. Mr Chesshyre was appointed Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (Birthday Honours 1988) and Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (New Year Honours 2003) and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977) and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002). He is also a Freeman of the City of London (1975), Freeman (1994) and Liveryman (1995) of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (1977), Fellow of the Heraldry Society (1990), and Associate Member of the Bach Choir (1993). He is also an Associate Member of the Society of Heraldic Arts and Honorary Member of the White Lion Society. Until 2019 he was Vice-President of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. He was also the Patron of Middlesex Heraldry Society until the society's dissolution in 2012.
7. Mr Chesshyre has never married and has no children.

#### How I came into contact with Mr Chesshyre

8. I entered the choir of [DPA] Cathedral in January 1991 as a probationer. The choir was recommended to my parents by [Name Redacted] who was then the [DPA] [DPA]. During the year 1991 I progressed to become a junior boy, which involved joining the choir on Sunday mornings, but not on Sunday afternoons or weekdays. In February 1992 I was admitted as a chorister and began to sing at the full range of

services. Mr Chesshyre and I must therefore have become known to each other in late 1991 or early 1992, when I was aged 9 or 10.

9. Mr Chesshyre's role at [DPA] Cathedral was that of honorary lay clerk, a position he held from 1971 until 2003. An honorary lay clerk is a gentleman who sings in the choir (known as a lay clerk), but without a salary (hence 'honorary'). Mr Chesshyre enjoyed the esteem, and even the affection, of the clergy and lay staff, other lay clerks, choristers, and families. This doubtless contributed to a situation in which he was allowed considerable freedom in his interactions with choristers. This afforded Mr Chesshyre the opportunity to groom me and my family.

### Grooming by Mr Chesshyre

10. Mr Chesshyre had for many years organised a heraldry class for choristers, which took place in the cathedral chapter house during our lunchbreak on Sundays. I began to attend Mr Chesshyre's heraldry class in either late 1992 or early 1993. I developed a very keen interest in heraldry, which Mr Chesshyre did his utmost to encourage. For example, he began taking me to lectures organised by the Heraldry Society, which gave him a reason to see me outside [DPA] Cathedral. He regularly gave me interesting items and presents. Some of the items that he gave me were things that had come into his possession in the course of his work for the Royal Household, e.g. the order of service used by the Queen during the installation of the Duke of Gloucester as a Knight of the Garter. I am sure that his superiors within the Royal Household did not intend that he should dispose of items such as this by giving them away as gifts. He also invited members of the choir and their families to visit locations such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and the College of Arms for special events. He also began to develop a friendship with my parents, especially my mother, whose professional background as a [DPA] was relevant to some of the difficulties that Mr Chesshyre was experiencing at the time.
11. By the middle of the decade Mr Chesshyre had established himself as a very significant person in my life and as a close friend of my family. Through his interactions with me, he made me feel that I was somebody who was special to him. I saw him several times each week (including services at [DPA] Cathedral), and we often communicated by telephone and by writing to each other. My parents placed a lot of trust in him. I would often visit Mr Chesshyre's house, [DPA] in [DPA] London, and I would usually stay overnight.
12. I loved Mr Chesshyre and regarded him as a paternal or avuncular figure. I also held him in very high esteem—I regarded him as a more important influence than people such as my teachers at school or clergy at the cathedral. He often seemed preoccupied with class distinctions and notions of rank and status. He had a sense of the natural order of things like that found in the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful': 'The rich man in his castle,|The poor man at his gate,|God made them high and lowly,|And ordered their estate.' He once told my mother that he was worried that he might be giving me ideas above my station! While he certainly considered himself to be rather superior, he also had a sense that there were people set above him. For example, he once remarked that his having initially been honoured with an LVO before



Household, would have been professionally aloof from politics, in which he seemed in any case to take little interest, while I was a 12-year-old chorister. Sir Edward had asked his housekeeper to get in some soft drinks in preparation for my visit, as he wasn't sure whether I'd like tea. Not only was this rather thoughtful of him, but it also suggests that he probably wasn't used to entertaining children. The allegations about Edward Heath always seemed to be implausible. For example, Mr Chesshyre and I were shown on and off Sir Edward's premises by a police officer—hardly conducive to any kind of criminality taking place. I was not surprised when it seemed that the allegations had finally been found to be without substance.

17. Shortly before this visit in 1995, my mother's friend [Name Redacted] a [DPA] [DPA] told my mother that she and her husband [Name Redacted] a [DPA] [DPA] were worried that Edward Heath was a well-known paedophile and that Mr Chesshyre was probably grooming me to be a potential victim for Sir Edward. I have no idea how these kinds of rumours circulated in the days before the internet. It's unfortunate that the [Name Redacted] didn't just say that they suspected that Mr Chesshyre might be a paedophile. By introducing the idea that he was probably working for a VIP paedophile ring they made their concerns sound ridiculous.
18. My mother did ask me whether Mr Chesshyre had ever behaved inappropriately, but the truth was that up to that time his behaviour had genuinely been entirely appropriate. This shows that Mr Chesshyre was very clever in the way in which he went about grooming me.
19. During the family holiday in [DPA] in 1995 Mr Chesshyre took me for a walk alone. For a time during our walk he carried me on his shoulders, which was rather strange as I was 13 years old. He made inappropriate comments to me during this episode.
20. Following a [DPA] during the summer of 1996 Mr Chesshyre began to take on an increasingly important role in my life. He claimed that my mother had sought an undertaking from him that in the event of [DPA] he would care for me and my [Sibling].
21. Over the Easter weekend in 1996 Mr Chesshyre took me to the Savoy Theatre to see Simon Callow's revival of Micheál Mac Liammóir's play *The Importance of Being Oscar*. I was very interested in Oscar Wilde's life and literature at the time, but I worry that some of the sexual topics discussed in the play may betray an ulterior motive in taking me to it. During our summer trip in 1997, Mr Chesshyre insisted on reading my diary. After that, I stopped keeping a diary. At the time I thought that he was just curious and intrusive, but I now wonder whether he was checking to make sure that I hadn't written down anything that would incriminate him.

### **Inappropriate sexual conversations**

22. Beginning around the the summer of 1995, when I would have been 13, Mr Chesshyre regularly sought to engage me in conversations about sexual topics. This was typically done under the pretext of a legitimate topic of discussion. These conversations most

commonly took place in Mr Chesshyre's car when we were driving long distances. On one occasion Mr Chesshyre said that I should never tell anybody what he and I talked about. More specifically, he said that my parents would consider the topics covered 'rather shocking'. Conversely, he also alleged that my mother had given him permission to cover certain topics in a pastoral or educational manner, perhaps a little like a form tutor or head of year at school. Around this time Mr Chesshyre also began to give me alcoholic drinks, including cider, wine, fortified wine, spirits, and liqueurs.

23. Mr Chesshyre quite often talked about the subject of child sexual abuse. His purpose seemed to be to try to justify paedophilia and paedophile activities. I believe that he did this at least partly to provide a rationale for his behaviour that would reduce the likelihood of my reporting him as a criminal. Mr Chesshyre's **teacher** **DPA** seemed to be a very important person in his life. He alleged that this master sexually abused **Sensitive/Irrelevant** boys by touching their genitals while marking their work, although he specifically rejected the term 'abuse' to describe his behaviour. Mr Chesshyre claimed that **Sensitive/Irrelevant** boys actually enjoyed their teacher's assaults and appreciated the fact that the boys whom he assaulted were his favourite pupils. He noted his relief that no old boy had ever come forward to allege that this master had committed sexual abuse offences during his time at the school. He said that it would be 'absolutely awful' if such an allegation were ever to be made. This was partly because this teacher **DPA** **DPA**. I am sure that Mr Chesshyre wanted me to think that he was rather similar to this teacher: that his assaults were in fact an indication of his affection for me and that it would be a great shame for a person of such distinction to be treated as a criminal.

24. Mr Chesshyre **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant** **Sensitive/Irrelevant** He said that a certain amount of sexual interest and even activity between older and younger boys was the norm at his **DPA** school, partly because the younger boys were used as replacements for girls in the single-sex environment of the school. He said that young boys who were pretty were known as 'school tarts' and that there was one such boy of whom he was fond, although they never did more than hold hands.

25. Mr Chesshyre was always contemptuous whenever the subject of child sexual abuse allegations was raised. He thought that a lot of allegations resulted from a kind of hysteria (what we would perhaps call 'moral panic'). He also said that he didn't believe that adult-child sexual activity was always wrong and that he thought that children often enjoyed sexual activity with adults and could consent to it and even instigate it. I later discovered that it is not uncommon for paedophiles to make such claims. He also used to say that it was unfair that an adult could be punished for having sex with a

child who was often very physically developed and who could be 'seductive' in his or her behaviour. He said that a child like this was 'a little tart'. In particular, he claimed that a lot of young girls wanted to have sex with men and that they made themselves look more mature and behaved in a way that was intended to seduce men. He felt that in such cases the man is in fact the real victim. Again, I later learned that all these arguments are quite often used by paedophiles, but at the time I thought that they were just his own somewhat unusual opinions, which, perhaps surprisingly, made me less suspicious.

26. It perhaps seems rather strange that I was not immediately horrified by Mr Chesshyre's ideas and that I was not alerted to the risk of harm from him. The reason for this is because, as I have already said, I regarded him as something of a polymath and thinker. If Mr Chesshyre and I spent a week together, we certainly did not spend all week talking about paedophilia. Much of our time, of course, was spent talking about Mr Chesshyre's areas of expertise: heraldry and genealogy, the royal family, nobility, and orders of chivalry. I was also fascinated by reminiscences of his childhood spent in extraordinary settings ranging from Dover Castle to far-flung colonies of the British Empire and by stories of life at boarding school and at Oxford and Cambridge. Classically educated, and a graduate in Modern and Medieval Languages, Mr Chesshyre would often talk about French and German literature, sing German songs, and explain prosody and rhetorical terms. He liked to discuss topics as varied as theology, art, wine, and lepidopterology—he had amassed a substantial collection of specimens of butterflies and moths. I was a bright and ambitious boy who had not enjoyed the same opportunities that Mr Chesshyre had had, and I was eager to absorb all the knowledge that I could. If, therefore, his topics of conversation sometimes included bizarre and uncomfortable observations about paedophilia, I assumed that these were merely intended to be another aspect of the broadening of my intellectual horizons—all the more so because Mr Chesshyre often encouraged me to reject what he regarded as conventional middle-class notions of propriety. To complicate matters yet further, Mr Chesshyre would occasionally be able to cite a case in which the alleged perpetrator clearly was genuinely innocent, for example, when the broadcaster Julia Somerville and her partner, the architect Jeremy Dixon, were arrested over a photograph of Somerville's daughter taking a bath that they had taken to be developed at Boots. This seemed at the time to lend some legitimacy to Mr Chesshyre's overall argument and to reinforce the sense that his motives were essentially innocent.
27. On several occasions Mr Chesshyre talked about adolescent girls, making comments about their genitals and breasts. He also talked about people he found attractive, including several other boys in the [DPA] and described sexual fantasies, including fantasies about boys masturbating, both alone and with other boys. Again, while I found these topics a little odd, I had no reason to suspect that he had sinister motives.
28. Mr Chesshyre talked about masturbation quite often and once asked me whether I thought that it was wrong that he masturbated. It was not something that I had ever thought about before. When he talked about masturbation it was almost always in the context of reminiscing about the religious and moral atmosphere at his prep school, St Michael's, and he therefore used terms such as 'onanism', 'self abuse', and 'the solitary vice', and recalled myths that he had heard, such as masturbation causing

blindness and even instant death. I therefore imagined that he was interested in the topic from a theological and historical perspective and only later realised that his interest was probably sexual. He also used to talk about erections and nocturnal emissions.

29. Quoting the Archbishop of York, David Hope, who had been one of his clients at the College of Arms, Mr Chesshyre described his sexuality as 'a grey area'. He described two sexual encounters with women, neither of which he seemed to have found satisfactory. He sometimes talked about condoms and STIs, which could have had some purported educational value. He sometimes made sexual comments about other people, e.g. identifying somebody who was gay or who was an infamous philanderer. He quite often talked about gay men as if they were a subject of which he had made an anthropological study, e.g. noting how they walk, how they arrange their hands, how they speak, and how they interact socially.
30. Mr Chesshyre seemed to be interested in unusual sexual practices. He once told me that he had found a book about unusual sexual practices in the rooms of one of his colleagues at the College of Arms (in fact, a book called *The Encyclopedia of Unusual Sexual Practices* was published in the UK in 1995, so this may well be what he had seen). He said that he had looked at the book and that it had an entry for intercrural or interfemoral sex. During our trip to [DPA] in 1996 Mr Chesshyre talked about autoerotic asphyxiation and mentioned a recent case of a man who had died while doing this—presumably Stephen Milligan, a Conservative MP who died in this manner in 1994.

### **Inappropriate behaviour and sexual abuse**

31. Mr Chesshyre had fetishes involving urination, some of which he incorporated into his behaviour towards me and some of which he only talked about. For example, he explained to me the meaning of the term 'golden shower', claiming that he had heard somebody mention it when the choir visited [DPA]. Mr Chesshyre would often watch me urinating, sometimes at his house, but more commonly outdoors during car journeys. It seemed that he would sometimes engineer a situation in which this would be possible, e.g. by telling me not to use a lavatory before setting off on a journey or pretending that we were carrying out an experiment with incontinence pads.
32. Some of Mr Chesshyre's behaviour was voyeuristic in nature. For example, he would watch me having a bath or a shower and he liked to be allowed to apply deodorant for me.
33. Mr Chesshyre wanted to carry out two different kinds of medical examination on me. One was for a [DPA] and the other was for an [DPA]. I didn't allow him to carry out either examination. However, he did seem to have carried out a certain amount of preparation for these examinations. For the [DPA] examination, he told me that he had obtained [DPA]. For the [DPA] examination, he said that he had a friend who had been the school doctor at a very famous public school and that he believed that his friend would be able to assist with the examination if we were to see him while visiting other places of interest near the school. He also



described to me in considerable detail his own recent experience of having the [DPA] examination carried out by a female doctor.

34. Mr Chesshyre exposed himself to me indecently on one occasion. The spare bedroom where I usually slept in his house was unavailable due to building work, so I slept on the floor in his own bedroom. While I was lying down on the floor Mr Chesshyre seemed to make a point of walking around wearing no clothing below his waist.
35. Mr Chesshyre seemed to have a fetish about male underwear. On one of our trips he encouraged me to experiment with wearing boxer shorts instead of briefs. He said that he happened to have packed a pair of boxer shorts that he believed would be the right size. This clearly must have been planned as it seems unlikely that Mr Chesshyre would have had any other reason for having boxer shorts that would be small enough for a child. He also liked to talk about the health benefits of sleeping without underwear.

### **Allegations subject to a trial of the facts**

#### ***Two counts of indecent assault proven in court: massage, wrestling, and tickling***

36. Most of Mr Chesshyre's assaults were covered by two specimen counts of offences involving 'massage', 'wrestling', and 'tickling' alleged to have taken place between [DPA] [DPA] 1995 and [DPA] 1998 'within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court'. In reality, these assaults took place between the summer of 1995 and the summer of 1997 at Mr Chesshyre's east London home, [DPA] in his car, and at other premises in England, Wales, and Scotland. While it is impossible to say exactly how many times these assaults took place, I have provided the Inquiry with an estimate of a total of around 45 occasions.

#### ***Remaining count of indecent assault ordered to lie on file: masturbation***

37. I allege that during the night of 22/23 August 1997 Mr Chesshyre indecently assaulted me by masturbating me while I was asleep in a tent in the grounds of [DPA] [DPA] which was the home of his cousins. During his trial this assault was identified as count 3 on the indictment. The jury was unable to make either a unanimous or a majority finding on this count. The CPS did not seek a retrial and the judge therefore ordered that the charge should lie on file.
38. Mr Chesshyre and I had interrupted our stay at [DPA] to spend 21–22 August walking in the [DPA] which was around 30 miles away. We stayed overnight at a youth hostel on 21 August. Before we set out from London Mr Chesshyre had told me that we would camp in the [DPA]. At the time I had a dome tent, large enough for one or two people, which I mainly used on school trips to the Lake District. Mr Chesshyre asked me to bring the tent with me, but he later told me that he had booked a youth hostel. On 22 August, when we returned to [DPA] [DPA] from the [DPA], Mr Chesshyre said that he was sorry that we had not used the tent. He suggested that we should spend the night camping in the grounds of [DPA]. His cousins said that we could do this if we wanted to.

39. [DPA] is a [DPA] mansion set in extensive grounds including a garden, a walled garden, a kitchen garden, an orchard, and fields. I was much more vulnerable in the tent than I would have been in my bedroom at the house. The spot which Mr Chesshyre selected for us to pitch the tent was some distance from the house, meaning that we were physically very isolated. It would have been difficult for me to go back to the house because of the two dogs on the property and because of the alarm on the ground floor of the house. Looking back, I am sure that this was carefully planned.
40. Mr Chesshyre and I slept in sleeping bags. I fell asleep. I don't know whether Mr Chesshyre fell asleep or stayed awake. I woke up during the assault. I don't know what time it was or for how long I had been asleep. When Mr Chesshyre realised that I was awake he stopped the assault. Neither of us said anything and we both went to sleep. I was obviously very frightened and confused. In the morning he behaved quite normally as if nothing had happened.

***Additional count of indecent assault removed from the indictment at the beginning of the trial***

41. One further count of indecent assault was removed from the indictment at the beginning of Mr Chesshyre's trial. This count related to an incident in which I had sat between Mr Chesshyre's legs in the driver's seat of his car during a purported driving lesson on private land. The prosecution counsel, Richard Merz, explained that this was because the defence would argue quite persuasively that this could simply have been a legitimate way of giving a driving lesson.

**Trial of the facts**

42. A trial of the facts was held in Court 20 at Snaresbrook Crown Court before Her Honour Judge (Sarah) Paneth during 5–14 October 2015. Mr Chesshyre was not required to attend the trial, but he chose to sit in the public gallery throughout. The jury found unanimously that Mr Chesshyre had done two offences of indecent assault. The jury was unable to make either a unanimous or a majority finding on the third count, and, at the request of the CPS, Judge Paneth ordered that the count should lie on file. Mr Chesshyre was given an absolute discharge.
43. I continue to believe that the Crown Prosecution Service failed to deal adequately with the question of Mr Chesshyre's fitness to plead. I exhibit at [Exhibit 2] my correspondence with Jason Bishop, Senior Crown Prosecutor, and Detective Constable Harry Nunez, which contains my principal concerns. (For the avoidance of ambiguity, I have been asked to clarify that Detective Constable Nunez is a woman.) I stated that any information which I had received from anybody who had seen Mr Chesshyre around that time had suggested to me that the assertion that he is mentally incapacitated was far from persuasive, and that he had recently moved into housing which required him to be 'in good health and able to lead an independent life'. (I have subsequently learned that the accommodation in which Mr Chesshyre lived at the time accepted him as a private tenant and that he may therefore have been free of any

*formal* obligation to show that he was 'in good health and able to lead an independent life'. Nonetheless, it seems clear that he probably would not have moved there if he had been suffering from dementia.) I queried the fact that the CPS had been satisfied to accept Mr Chesshyre's unfitness solely on the basis of reports commissioned on Mr Chesshyre's behalf by his family and/or defence. It was also my understanding that any impairment which Mr Chesshyre suffered dated from the time of his stroke, which took place in mid-2002. I knew from my contact with him that the stroke had temporarily affected his writing and speech, but afterwards he recovered and returned to full-time employment between 2003 and 2010. The tasks involved in the course of his job were complicated and demanded specialised skills, knowledge, and written and oral communication. I did not understand how Mr Chesshyre accounted for the decline in his mental capacity which he apparently suffered over the short period of time between his retirement in 2010 and his arrest on 14 February 2013.

44. I did not receive a satisfactory response. I received no further correspondence about this issue after Detective Constable Nunez's email to me dated 28 July 2015. I later had a conversation with her during which she told me that Jason Bishop had asked her to advise me to desist from any further correspondence on the subject, as he felt that it could be thought that I had 'an ulterior motive' for seeking to have Mr Chesshyre found to be fit to plead. Mr Chesshyre's behaviour during his trial only reinforced my view that he was not suffering from a genuine mental disorder. For example, he could be heard laughing in the public gallery at very specific points in my evidence. One such instance was when I dismissed as ridiculous his defence counsel's suggestion that Mr Chesshyre had intervened in a University of [DPA] admissions process to help me to get a place at a particular [DPA] of the university. I feel that it is appropriate to put on record at this point that nothing that I have said should be interpreted as reflecting adversely upon Detective Constable Nunez or any other officer or employee of the Metropolitan Police Service. Throughout the entire process I was impressed by the professionalism, thoroughness, and care shown by the police, and I would not wish to suggest any criticism of them at all.

#### **Listing of hearings/trial**

45. Every time the case was listed for a hearing or for trial, both at Thames Magistrates' Court and at Snaresbrook Crown Court, Mr Chesshyre's name was listed as 'David Chesshire'. I highlighted this error during telephone calls to both Thames Magistrates' Court and Snaresbrook Crown Court. I also brought the error to the attention of Detective Constable Nunez both by email and during the course of several conversations, and she told me that she had received assurances from the relevant authorities that Mr Chesshyre's name would be listed correctly in the future. When Detective Constable Nunez and I visited Snaresbrook Crown Court we both explained to a member of the witness service that Mr Chesshyre's surname is correctly spelled 'Chesshyre' and that he is commonly known by his second Christian name, Hubert. I understood after this meeting that the case would be listed for trial under the name 'David Hubert Chesshyre'.
46. This error, persistently committed by the listing offices of both the magistrates' court and the Crown Court, has had two important consequences: first, there exists no

record that a person named Hubert Chesshyre (or even David Chesshyre) ever stood trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court. Secondly, I understand that the daily lists provide the principal resource used by journalists to identify cases which it would be in the public interest to report. I believe that if the trial had been listed and tweeted under the name 'David Hubert Chesshyre', as I understood that it would be, or even under the name 'David Chesshyre' (the correct spelling), it would probably have attracted some media interest. The most generous interpretation possible is that HM Courts and Tribunals Service was completely incompetent. While I am reluctant to propose any kind of conspiracy theory, however, I do think that in this case it seems to be at least a possibility that Mr Chesshyre's name was mis-spelled deliberately in order to reduce the likelihood of media interest in his trial.

### **Forfeiture of honours**

47. In October 2015, following the conclusion of Mr Chesshyre's trial, I contacted the Honours and Appointments Secretariat to enquire about the process for forfeiture of an appointment to the Royal Victorian Order. I was informed that, as the appointment is within the personal gift of the sovereign, the correct procedure was for me to contact Sir Alan Reid, Keeper of the Privy Purse, who served as Secretary of the Order.
48. I exhibit at **[Exhibit 3]** my correspondence with Sir Alan Reid. In a letter to Sir Alan dated 20 October 2015 I communicated my concerns about Mr Chesshyre's continuing to hold the Royal Victorian Order and the Queen Elizabeth II Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals. I explained the outcome of the trial of the facts. I also demonstrated that Mr Chesshyre had misused the public positions for which he was honoured in order to further his criminal activities. For example, he had invited me to royal ceremonies at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and the Palace of Westminster, he had given me access to the College of Arms, he had introduced me to many of his colleagues and clients, and he had given me as presents things that came into his possession through his job. I argued that, despite the finding of unfitness to plead, Mr Chesshyre suffered from no mental disorder during the period when the offences took place and surely ought not to derive any benefit from the fact that he had cleverly manipulated me so that I would not report the offences at the time.
49. I suggested that it would be wholly inappropriate for a person who has committed such serious offences to be allowed to retain any honours or other distinctions conferred upon him by the Queen. I asked Alan Reid to consider whether he should submit a recommendation to the Queen requesting that Mr Chesshyre's appointment to be a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order should be cancelled and annulled. I also suggested that Mr Chesshyre ought to forfeit the Queen Elizabeth II Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals, which are separate awards not connected with the Royal Victorian Order.
50. Sir Alan responded on 10 November 2015 declining to submit a recommendation of forfeiture on the basis that Mr Chesshyre was given an absolute discharge and no conviction is registered.

51. After I had received Sir Alan's reply, I contacted IICSA, but was not told that honours forfeiture would be considered as part of the Westminster investigation. I have been frustrated that my complaints have until now received no attention from the Inquiry. I hope that in submitting this statement, albeit belatedly at an advanced stage of proceedings, the Inquiry will be able to consider my evidence insofar as it relates to the Westminster investigation. I hope that, as a result, it will be possible for the Inquiry to give a more accurate, comprehensive, and even-handed account of this episode.
52. Having received no constructive response from IICSA, I wrote to my MP, Jim Dowd, later in 2016. In particular, I told Mr Dowd that I felt that Sir Alan Reid was unable to make an objective decision because he had been Mr Chesshyre's colleague for some eight years and that I believed that Sir Alan lacked the legal expertise necessary to deal with the particularly complex issues involved in this case. On 21 December 2016 Mr Dowd replied to me advising me that he had contacted the prime minister with a request for her response to my concerns. On 5 April 2017 he wrote to me again advising me that the Honours and Appointments Secretariat and the Royal Household had agreed that in this case the Honours Forfeiture Committee could, exceptionally, consider the forfeiture of an honour that is normally within the sovereign's personal gift **[Exhibit 4]**.
53. Despite Sir Alan's view, the Honours Forfeiture Committee did consider the matter and recommended forfeiture of Mr Chesshyre's CVO, the only honour which it was in their remit to consider. I am aware that Ms Helen MacNamara, Director General, Propriety and Ethics, Cabinet Office gave evidence to this Inquiry about Mr Chesshyre's case on 14 March 2019 (see Public Hearing Transcript 14 March 2019, pp. 93–4). The Inquiry also saw evidence identified as CAB000155\_007.
54. I would like to comment on that evidence as follows.
- a. First, the Cabinet Office document adduced in the hearing is inaccurate with regard to the precise nature of the charges on which Mr Chesshyre was tried. That document speaks of 'sexual offences against children', while in fact all three charges pertained to allegations by a single complainant. Furthermore, that document alleges that the charges were 'two counts of gross indecency with a male minor' during the period 1995-6 and one 'indecent assault on a male person under 13 years of age'. In fact, the actual charges were two specimen counts of indecent assault during the period 1995-8 and one count of indecent assault upon a male person aged 15.
  - b. More significantly, Ms MacNamara's evidence misrepresents the series of events that led to the forfeiture of Mr Chesshyre's appointment. Her evidence suggests that following Mr Chesshyre's trial, the Honours and Appointments Secretariat learned of the criminal finding of fact (by means that are not specified), that the matter was then put to the Honours Forfeiture Committee, and that the Committee, in spite of 'a technicality', '[made] the right decision.' I feel that I must say that this version of events falls somewhat short of the whole truth. I understand that Ms MacNamara had been in post for less than one year at this point and I therefore appreciate that it is likely that she had been inadequately briefed and that there was no intention to mislead.

55. I understand from the document referred to as CAB000159\_001 that Mr Chesshyre's honour was in fact forfeited on 15 May 2018. The Honours Forfeiture Committee reached precisely the opposite conclusion to Alan Reid, which surely raises a worrying question about Sir Alan's judgement (and perhaps demands further scrutiny of how he reached his decision). Inexplicably, I was not informed of this decision until 11 October 2018, nearly five months later. This seems to me somewhat to contradict Ms MacNamara's repeated assertions that the Cabinet Office was, albeit belatedly, becoming aware of the feelings of victims. Indeed, as recently as 12 September 2018, I had quite unnecessarily sent a long letter to the Cabinet Office expressing my ongoing concern that Mr Chesshyre's honour had not yet, as I then believed, been forfeited (in fact, it had already been forfeited nearly four months previously, but nobody had thought to tell me).
56. I should like to mention the inexplicable decision of the Honours Forfeiture Committee that the cancellation and annulment of Mr Chesshyre's appointment should not be published in the *London Gazette*. I was informed of this decision in an email from Alex Morrow dated 17 October 2018 [Exhibit 5]. I feel very strongly that the forfeiture of honours should be a public act. It is surely fitting that when an honour is taken away it should attract as much publicity as the original award. In Mr Chesshyre's case it seems that he has sought as far as possible to avoid the forfeiture of his honour from becoming widely known. For example, on the website of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, where he was until recently a vice-president, he continued for a long time to be named as, 'D.H.B. Chesshyre, Esq., CVO, FSA'. An annual report of Trinity College, Cambridge, published as recently as 11 February 2019, also lists Mr Chesshyre as a CVO in a list of alumni [Exhibit 6]. Mr Chesshyre's entry in *Who's Who* can no longer be found online and may have been suppressed with the intention of avoiding drawing attention to the forfeiture (the publishers confirmed in an email that entries are suppressed only at the subject's request).
57. Finally, I also wrote to several other organisations with which Mr Chesshyre was (and in some cases still is) associated to ask whether they would be considering withdrawing any similar awards to him. These were:
- a. The Heraldry Society, where Mr Chesshyre has been a Fellow of the Society since 1990. The question was discussed at a meeting of the Council of the Society on 9 November 2015. The Chairman of the Society, Steven Ashley, wrote in an email dated 11 November 2015, 'The Council's unanimous decision was, given that Mr Chesshyre was granted an absolute discharge and the matter was not considered to be a conviction, we take no action to remove an honour awarded to Hubert for his scholarly achievements.' [Exhibit 7]
  - b. The Worshipful Company of Musicians (one of the livery companies of the City of London), where Mr Chesshyre has been a Freeman of the Company since 1994 and a Liveryman since 1995. A long and convoluted letter from the Company's solicitors concluded that it would 'offend the principles of natural justice' to impose any kind of sanction upon Mr Chesshyre given his 'mental state'. [Exhibit 8]

- c. The Society of Antiquaries of London, where Mr Chesshyre has been a Fellow since 1977. The General Secretary of the Society, John Lewis, wrote in an email dated 18 December 2015 that the question had been considered by the Society and its lawyers and that its Council had, 'decided (as it may, within its discretion) that Mr Chesshyre's conduct or continued position as a Fellow of the Society is not likely to be harmful to the interests and welfare of the Society. Accordingly the Council will not be putting the question of the removal of Mr Chesshyre to the Fellows of the Society.' [Exhibit 9]

Following the IICSA Westminster public hearings and the publication of an article in *The Observer* (Jamie Doward, 'Honours system under scrutiny after sex abuser kept title for years', 31 March 2019 [Exhibit 10], I received a further email from Mr Lewis dated 18 April 2019. In this email he wrote, 'In these changed circumstances, the Council is considering afresh whether to put the question of the removal of Mr Chesshyre to the Fellows of the Society.' [Exhibit 9] as above]

- d. The Bach Choir, where Mr Chesshyre was a member 1979–93, subsequently becoming an associate member. After giving 'due consideration' and taking 'appropriate advice', Katharine Richman, Acting Chair (now Chair), wrote in an email dated 8 December 2015, 'The person to whom you refer is, as you correctly say, an associate member of our organisation in recognition of his past loyalty and commitment to the Choir as a singing member. He has not been a participating singing member for many years. Furthermore, due to long-term illhealth, he is no longer an active associate member and therefore has no involvement at all with any activities of the Choir. For this reason, whilst I appreciate the level of your concern, I do not feel it is incumbent on The Bach Choir to take any further action.' [Exhibit 11] Strangely, in my opinion, Mrs Richman later sent me a request to join my LinkedIn network, which seemed inappropriate under the circumstances. [Exhibit 12]
- e. The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, where Mr Chesshyre was a Vice-President until 13 April 2019. In an email dated 9 December 2015, Richard Baker, Principal and Clerk to the Trustees, confirmed that the question would be considered by the Court of Trustees and that he had forwarded my email to the Chairman of the Court of Trustees. I heard nothing further from the Institute, but I observed that Mr Chesshyre continued to be listed as a Vice-President on the Institute's website.

Following the publication of Jamie Doward's article in *The Observer*, I noted that the IHGS removed the list of Vice-Presidents from its website. After some time, the list was restored with Mr Chesshyre's name removed. I contacted Dr Baker again and he replied on 5 June 2019 confirming, 'that at a meeting of Trustees on 13th April 2019 it was agreed that Mr Chesshyre's name be removed from the list of vice-presidents.' [Exhibit 13]

I think that it is worth mentioning that several members of the Court of Trustees who were responsible for allowing Mr Chesshyre to remain as Vice-President for more than three years after his offending came to light are people of considerable prominence in the community. These include: Peter de Vere Beauclerk-Dewar (sometime chairman of the Inner London Family Proceedings Court and the Inner London Magistrates' Association and deputy chairman and vice chairman of governors at a private girls' secondary school

and a state primary school); Amanda Cottrell (sometime high sheriff of Kent, magistrate, parish councillor, school governor, and county president of the Kent branches of both the Girl Guides and the NSPCC); John Titford (magistrate); Dr Paul Fox (retired GP and consultant physician); Patrick Heren (director of Aid to the Church in Need).

- f. The City of London (in full, 'the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London'), of which Mr Chesshyre has been a Freeman since 1975. Following a delay of more than a year, I received an email from Peter Kane, the Chamberlain of London, dated 20 February 2017. Dr Kane advised me that the Corporation does not have the power to revoke awards of the Freedom of the City. The legal process to revoke Freedom of the City, which has not been used for over 200 years, involves a jury trial before the Recorder of London in the Mayor's and City of London Court. Dr Kane concludes, 'In any event the Corporation does not believe that it would be proportionate or a prudent use of the Corporation's resources to seek to use such a process in cases of the criminal conviction of Freemen, which would entail a monitoring process to ensure fair and consistent treatment and expensive and uncertain legal proceedings.' [Exhibit 14]
- g. Mr Chesshyre also remains an associate member of the Society of Heraldic Arts and an honorary member of the White Lion Society. I did not contact these organisations, as the level of the award seemed sufficiently trivial that pursuing any kind of formal revocation process seemed a disproportionate response. I did, however, contact the White Lion Society more recently, as I was concerned that Mr Chesshyre was described as holding an LVO on their website. This was apparently due to a technical error several years ago and has now been removed. Mr Chesshyre's position will also be discussed at a future meeting of the society's council. [Exhibit 15] Presumably these organisations must have been aware of Mr Chesshyre's situation from the media and, almost certainly, by word of mouth within the small and closely connected world of British heraldry.
- h. In the article cited above, Jamie Doward writes, 'When approached by the *Observer*, the various societies of which he is a member confirmed that they would not be dissociating themselves from him.'
- i. Mr Chesshyre continues to hold the Queen Elizabeth II Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals. There is seemingly no process for the forfeiture of these awards.

**I believe that the contents of this statement are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

**Signed**

**DPA**



**Dated**

19 August 2019