

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: SINCLAIR, MALCOLM ROY

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: RETIRED POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: SIGNED

Date: 12/12/2017

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

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I am a retired police officer and reside with my partner in Kent.

I joined the Metropolitan Police Service in 1966 and I retired as an Inspector in 1994.

In recent weeks I have had telephone contact with both Paul CAHALAN who describes himself as a "Freelance Journalist" and Mr Mike VEALE who is the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police. Initially I was contacted by CAHALAN who stated that the Chief Constable would be interested in the information I have from my time working as the Police Sergeant on what was known as the "Clubs' Office" in Central London. I do not know how CAHALAN had my contact details and I had not had any dealings with him prior to that phone conversation.

I was reluctant to share any information I had with CAHALAN so I suggested that if Mr Veale was interested in what I had to say, then perhaps Mr Veale would like to speak to me direct.

I later received a call from Mr Veale who stated that officers from Operation Conifer would contact me to ascertain what information I had that might be relevant to the investigation regarding reports of historic abuse against the late Sir Edward Heath.

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What follows are my recollections of my time as the Police Sergeant on Clubs' Office between approximately 1977-79;

In 1977 I was promoted to uniformed sergeant at Vine Street in the West End and after only a few months I was moved onto the Clubs' Office.

Clubs' Office was located in West End Central police station, London, and I was in charge of a team of 4-5 officers. The role of Clubs' Office was to supervise the night-time economy and the licensed premises in the Soho area. It pre-dated what later became known as 'vice squad'.

I can remember I supervised Paul HOLMES, Maurice MAYLIN and Willy ATCHINSON amongst other officers whose names I cannot recall. Even when I joined the team it was Paul HOLMES who was the font of all knowledge to do with the vice activities in the Soho area. I learnt everything from Paul HOLMES who was known as PH. My immediate supervisor was Inspector JONES and Chief Superintendent Neil DIVER had overall responsibility for the Clubs' office.

Initially I supervised a couple of investigations that involved brothels and offences relating to living off immoral earnings. The team had some positive results from these which included a degree of surveillance and observations.

At the same time, the team were aware of the problem of young runaway boys who congregated outside Liberty's shop on Piccadilly Circus. They waited behind a metal railing to be picked up by men for sexual activities. This location was commonly known as the Meat Rack. I cannot recall any instruction to look at this particular problem but as a team we were encouraged to go out and be proactive with our investigations.

Initially the team observed what took place along the Meat Rack. I can say that it was clear that young boys, who I can only describe as teenagers, were frequently picked up either by men in cars, or walked away from the area with a man. These observations led us to watch the area more often. On at least one occasion I saw a chauffeur driven Cadillac stop on the Meat Rack and pick up a rent-boy. This happened on a few occasions. I am aware that this Cadillac was used by the MP Cyril SMITH and on some occasions I observed SMITH sat in the car. On each occasion the car was driven by a chauffeur. The Clubs' office team members had their private cars fitted with radios and we could communicate with each other. We were able to follow this Cadillac and it drove to a premise near Cricklewood Broadway. The

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team must have observed Cyril SMITH exit the car with the rent boy and enter what appeared to be a block of flats. I have a specific memory of looking up to the lights on in a flat and seeing SMITH inside. From my position I was not able to see what took place inside, but from memory I am fairly certain that both SMITH and the rent boy were inside.

I remember that the team undertook observations on this particular flat in Cricklewood. It must have been that there was a degree of activity from this flat on a few occasions to warrant such action. I recall that when the team came on duty, one officer was allocated the role of observing the flat whilst other team members were on the road, paying attention to the Meat Rack.

This must have taken place for a number of weeks although I cannot be certain the exact length of time.

I can say that the team observed various men frequent the flat. I am sure that four of them were MPs who I recognised as Cyril SMITH, Jeremy THORPE, Leon BRITTEN and Edward HEATH. In relation to Sir Edward HEATH, I can say that I saw him inside this flat on more than one occasion and I am certain that it was him. I cannot say what he was doing inside the premises nor do I recall how HEATH arrived at the flat.

I cannot recall if the team ever checked out who owned or rented this particular flat, but Cyril SMITH definitely went there with little boys.

I remember there were some concerns about young boys being brought over from Amsterdam to the Meat Rack area and as a result the team arranged for a young boy from the Piccadilly "meat rack" to be sent over to Amsterdam. I cannot be certain who would have authorised this activity, but it may have been the Chief Superintendent, Neil DIVER. This same boy then appeared back in the London area a few days later. This confirmed the team's suspicion that there must be a connection between the two cities. I am unable to recall the name of this boy but I do remember attending Bow Street Magistrates Court on two occasions to represent the boy's welfare. I believe we kept him from being sent to prison. I remember that the boy was arrested twice in one month, but it is unlikely these records would still exist.

After observing the area and the activities along the Meat Rack and the flat in Cricklewood I remember that an initial report was submitted to Chief Superintendent Neil DIVER. We had reason to suspect offences were being committed by some MPs and the names Cyril SMITH, Leon BRITTEN, Jeremy THORPE and Edward HEATH would have been named in the report. The initial report was submitted to

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highlight that if further time and resources were spent on the investigation it would lead to possible arrests and future prosecutions. As a team we felt sure that the information we had submitted would warrant authorisation of further time being spent on the investigation.

I think that I would have written this report together with other team members but in particular, Paul HOLMES. This was not an evidential report for the purpose of going before the Courts, but to justify further investigation.

I cannot be certain, but I am fairly sure that Neil DIVER gave the team a verbal response to the report. We were told that we were to be diverted to the activities of a brothel in Hanover Square where there possibly in excess of 60 sex workers operating. The team and I were flabbergasted that we were being diverted off the Meat Rack investigation and I recall being told that it was "Not in the public interest to chase after high ranking MPs." We were to concentrate on the sex workers who worked out of Dolly's nightclub.

I am fairly certain that my time on the Club's Office was approximately 1977-79. The team and I had been moved on to investigating brothel where we had some positive results. It was then in the immediate aftermath of Lord Mountbatten being murdered (Bank holiday August 1979) I was transferred to the Royal Protection team where I remained for the next 10 years. I was an ideal candidate for this role as I was already an advanced police driver and marksman.

I recall that Paul HOLMES was a few years younger than me and during his Police career went on to become a high ranking Vice Squad officer. I have not been in contact with him for a number of years but I think after he retired from the police he became an advisor to Government. As I recall, HOLMES had an almost photographic memory and I am sure he would be able to recall the details of the team's observations. I understand that when he finally retired he moved to live in Southern Italy.

I think Maurice MAYLIN may have died some time ago, possibly before he retired. The last time I heard of Willy ATCHINSON he was working alongside the team investigation officers. I have not heard of him for many years.

Since my telephone conversation with Paul CAHALAN I have driven through the Cricklewood area in an attempt to identify the premises that we kept under observations. However, the area had altered greatly and I was unable to locate the flat I recall.

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In addition, I wish to add that I have previously shared some this information with Simon DANZCUK when he was an MP, possibly 3-4 years ago. I cannot say how he got hold of my contact details but I agreed to meet him when I was in the Manchester area for a football match. I met with DANZCUK and a solicitor for a coffee and we chatted for a short time. It became clear very quickly that DANZCUK was not so interested in Cyril SMITH, but it was more about himself and promoting a documentary for Channel 4 Dispatches. I was asked to be interviewed for the programme and I was not interested.. I walked away and I did not have any further contact with them.

After I retired from the police service I was employed as team manager for Wasps Rugby Football Club for over 20 years. When I first worked at the club, many years ago, I recall talking Gloria SENNITT and telling her that at some stage the activities of MPs, including Edward HEATH, would be in the public domain. More recently Gloria has reminded me of that conversation and how I said these things would be made public.

I have tried to contact Wiltshire Police on two occasions. On the first, many years ago, I had no response and I assumed that no one was interested in the information I had. In more recent times, I contacted Wiltshire police and again I had no response. On this second occasion I was motivated to call because I felt sorry for Mr VEALE and the negative press he was receiving into his investigation. I know that the current investigation is on the right track.

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