

Chief Constables' Council

Sir Richard Henriques review into the handling of non-recent allegations of sexual offences against high profile individuals by the MPS.

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Author: Assistant Commissioner Helen King
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1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report is prepared to provide CCC with an update on the Sir Richard Henriques Independent Review into the handling of non-recent allegations of sexual offences against high profile individuals by the Metropolitan Police Service.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In February 2016, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe asked for a former High Court judge to examine the way non-recent sexual allegations against public figures are investigated in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), with the rationale that an independent legal mind would be able to advise the MPS to provide a better balance between our duty to investigate and the interests of suspects, complainants and victims. The review was to

examine completed investigations and make recommendations about whether there are ways to improve the processes for all of those involved in the future.

2.2 Sir Richard was recommended to the Commissioner as he had recently conducted the Janner review for the Crown Prosecution Service. Sir Richard is supported by Junior Barrister, Louise Oakley, from 2 Bedford Row Chambers.

2.3 The terms of Reference for the review are as follows:

The Independent Review will examine and report upon the actions of the Metropolitan Police Service

(MPS) in investigating allegations of non-recent sexual offences said to have been committed by prominent public individuals. The objective of the review will be to identify any lessons for the Service and to make recommendations as to how the MPS conducts such investigations.

The Independent Review will examine in particular the following matters:

The way in which information about such investigations has been released into the public domain;

The problems associated with investigations initially based on the evidence of a single complainant and how far an investigation should go in order to corroborate a complainant's account;

The approach that has been adopted towards establishing the veracity of complainants;

The length of time such investigations have taken;

What steps can be taken to protect the interests of complainants so as to ensure the victims of crime can come forward with confidence;

Any other matters that the Independent Review considers relevant.

The independent review will also make such recommendations it feels appropriate in the light of the examination set out above, including, if appropriate, recommendations about MPS policy and procedures for the handling of such investigations.

The Independent Review will produce a report for the Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis.

2.4 It was agreed that the review would focus on police procedures and will not reach judgements on the guilt or innocence of any party. The Hon Lowell Goddard, who is chairing the Government's Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, has been notified of the review. Sir Richard

Henriques is aware that his review and material generated in the process may in due course be disclosed at the Goddard inquiry.

2.5 Sir Richard is reviewing a number of cases with a variety of criminal justice outcomes and sanctions to enable a comprehensive understanding of MPS processes and procedures. Operation Midland was reaching conclusion and is included in the review alongside other identified high profile cases.

3. PROCESS

3.1 To conduct the review Sir Richard Henriques is examining documents from the MPS and accused parties. He is also receiving briefings and is meeting with the NSPCC, Operation Hydrant Staff and Chief Constable Simon Bailey. Arrangements have been made for suspects, complainants and investigating officers to speak with him.

3.1 The review will be provided to the Commissioner later this year. The intention is to be as open and transparent as possible with its contents with a commitment to publish key findings and recommendations. Careful consideration will have to be given to publication or redaction of confidential and sensitive information in the review when it is received.

4. ISSUES FOR OTHER FORCES

4.1 As the review has developed a number of issues have arisen that have the potential to impact on other forces. One piece of evidential material from another force was requested by Sir Richard Henriques as relevant to his considerations. Permission from the relevant Chief Constable was sought and obtained prior to sharing it with the review.

4.2 As a result, all forces with investigations registered with Operation Hydrant that have a common suspect with cases subject to the review have been written to, notifying them of the review and the potential that there may be a future request from the MPS in relation to evidential material generated by them. At this time the probability of this being necessary is assessed as low.

4.3 A further purpose of this letter was for forces with live investigations into any of the accused parties subject to the review, to be given the opportunity to consider whether the review has the potential to impact on their investigation or any prosecution that might result.

4.4 One force has notified Sir Richard Henriques of a live investigation, where charges are not imminent. He has acknowledged their correspondence.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The MPS will update CCC once the review is received, which is anticipated to be by October 2016. Any questions in the interim please speak with Assistant Commissioner Helen King.

Helen King

Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service