



## Freedom of Information Request 981/13

*Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

- 1) Please could you inform me as to what information you hold on the Taff Vale Childrens Home.
- 2) Please could you tell me what the Duffy Inquiry was and when.
- 3) Please could you state how this relates to Operation Goldfinch.

### Clarification

The applicant has provided the following clarification in relation to point one "What information do South Wales Police hold on the Taff Vale Childrens Home as regards the Duffy inquiry and/or Operation Goldfinch 1 or Goldfinch 2"

The applicant has provided further clarification and has requested that we answer the following;

- 1 What was the purpose, remit and terms of reference of the Operation Goldfinch and Duffy Inquiry
- 2 What dates did each run
- 3 What are the indicators used by the Police as a measure of success of an Operation? What results it achieved in terms of number of arrests, number charged, number of convictions and for what offences for each ( if the request goes over the limit, please drop the convictions and offences part of this question)
- 4 Who the Police officer was in charge and how many officers were on the operation and inquiry
- 5 Why the operation and inquiry were instigated
- 6 Where the operation was run from and what area did it cover
- 7 Why was the name chosen and whether it had always had that name or whether there were connected operations
- 8 Where this information is now kept, and in what form -physical or electronic. If electronic is it on HOLMES?
- 9 Where any childrens establishments involved? If so which?

Clarification – Withdraw question 9

## RESPONSE

### Question 1

To investigate allegations of Historical Institutional Child abuse at Care Homes within the South Wales Police Force area.

### Question 2

Operation Goldfinch commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1997. Operation Duffy commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1996.

### Question 3

The investigation was victim lead. Each allegation was assessed and investigated in accordance with policy agreed between South Wales Police Association of Chief Police Officers and the designated Senior Investigating Officer via the Head of the CID Detective Chief Superintendent Wynne Phillips.

*Continued.....*

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### Question 4

Assistant Chief Constable Rodgers initially instigated the investigation named Operation Goldfinch in conjunction with the Head of the C.I.D. Detective Chief Superintendent W. Phillips. Detective Superintendent Martyn Lloyd-Evans was the appointed SIO. Detective Inspector G. Tinnuche joined the investigation when Operation Goldfinch amalgamated with Operation Duffy and he assumed overall command until the operations were concluded.

The operation was supported by 50-60 police officers / staff who were seconded to Operation Goldfinch. Police Officers were supported by civilian staff who supplemented the Major Crime Investigation Room, as indexers and typists. South Wales Police also employed former police officers through an agency.

### Question 5

The operations were instigated as a result of allegations made by former residents of children's homes about their time in care and allegations of abuse. Allegations were also made via third party referrals with some supported by the information supplied other former residents, social workers, other carers together with friends and other family members.

### Question 6

Operation Duffy was originally conducted from Canton Police Station, but then amalgamated with Operation Goldfinch which was based at Cowbridge Police Station.

The homes and schools covered by the two inquiries were all in the South Wales Police Force area. However, it should be noted that a number of persons in the 'Care System' during the period being investigated, were resident at establishments throughout South Wales in addition to neighbouring counties such as Gwent, Gloucestershire, Avon & Somerset and Devon & Cornwall.

### Question 7

The name was allocated in the same manner as all other South Wales Police Investigations, which at the time was via the Force Intelligence Bureau / C.I.D. administration departments. They would randomly select an Operational name for each police investigation - these were not specific names.

### Question 8

The operations are recorded on the HOLMES database and stored electronically and archived.

The 'Hard Copies' of the documents and material generated during the course of the two operations are currently stored at the Force Archive, Bridgend.

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