

I write in connection with your email request for information dated 12 October 2017 regarding communications relating to Operation Conifer

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows:

You wrote:

Please provide copies of all communications sent and received by the PCC between October 2, 2017, and today's date which relate to Operation Conifer.

Response:

Please see the attachments which show:

- 1) Emails sent and received by the PCC generic mailbox
- 2) Emails sent and received by the Police and Crime Commissioner's mailbox
- 3) Hard copies of correspondence received to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

This is a partial response under the following exemptions:

The information you require is exempt information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I should point out that the FOIA is primarily concerned with disclosure of information to the public. Information that constitutes personal data is exempt under section 40(1) of the FOIA if it is about the applicant (you in this case); or section 40(2) if it is about a third party and disclosure to the public would contravene the data protection principles set out in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Section 7(4) of DPA provides that, where the disclosure of personal data about an individual would also reveal information relating to other individuals who can be identified, we are not obliged to disclose it unless we have consent to do so; or it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so without consent.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires this office, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 40 Personal information

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and

5) The duty to confirm or deny—

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a partial response for this particular request.

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

I have received several letters challenging my use of the word victim. I used the word four times in the interview I gave to the BBC World at One about the Wiltshire Police investigation into the late Sir Edward Heath.

The challenge is a fair one. I agree that it is implicit in the word that an offence has been committed against the individuals concerned. In the interview I was however careful to refer to the allegations made just as often as I referred to them as victims. This I hoped would balance the coverage. I could have made reference to alleged victims. This however, tends to suggest doubt about their truthfulness.

There are two competing principles at stake. One is the need to be fair to anyone against whom allegations are made. The other is to avoid putting hurdles in front of those who really have been victims of sexual crimes which would not be faced by victims of other crimes. If a house is ransacked the police will treat the owner as a victim of domestic burglary. If the same individual alleges that a sexual assault has been perpetrated, that individual should be treated in the same way - as a victim of a crime.

Sir Richard Henriques covered this ground in his report into Operation Midland. He was a strong advocate of a change in terminology. As yet, the national policing guidance has not changed. The Chief Constable explained his use of the term in the Operations Conifer report. I have been careful to qualify my use of the term victim by referring to allegations that they have made.

In conclusion, I would add that the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 05 October 2017 13:39
To: Police and Crime Commissioner
Cc:
Subject: Sir Edward Heath

My dear Sir !

Other than his effect on the country's politics -- through which I lived -- I know nothing of Sir Edward, his private life or his sexual proclivities.

I write only to point out that you are incontrovertibly wrong to refer to those that have made allegations of sexual abuse &c. against him as 'victims', as -- presumably copying the practice of the now discredited police officers involved in e.g. Operation Midland -- you did several times during your interview for the B.B.C.'s 'World at One' programme.

Had any of the allegations been proven, you would have been right but none has ; the correct term for them therefore is not 'victims' but 'complainants'. Please correct your diction.

Yours ever,

Sent 10/10/2017

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-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 05 October 2017 13:32

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Sir Edward Heath investigation

Sir

I listened to your interview on Radio 4 lunch time program and was dismayed to hear you refer to those who had made allegations against Sir Edward as "victims". By using the term "victim", there was an implication that abuse had taken place. I am sure you must have been aware of the impact using the word "victim" would have and ask what evidence there is that they are victims of Sir Edward?

I would draw your attention to reports that Lord Sherbourne and other key aides to Sir Edward have not been interviewed by the police and could have provided evidence to the police as to Sir Edward's movements with diary evidence. I would ask you why these key aides were not interviewed? Should they not be now.

I am left feeling Sir Edward is the victim here.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

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With reference to your summary of the conclusions, I was not asked that question. It is not for the police investigation to reach conclusions, it will be for the independent inquiry.

Yours Sincerely

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Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From:
Sent: 05 October 2017 13:56
To: Police and Crime Commissioner;
Subject: Investigation into allegations into Edward Heath

I have just listened to the BBC interview with Mr Macpherson concerning the Wiltshire Police investigation into allegations made against Edward Heath. I note that 94% of the 118

allegations have been proven incorrect, several of these being vexatious. These 111 were not 'victims' of Mr Heath as reported. Of the 7 remaining allegations there is no proof supporting them.

I did not feel that Mr Macpherson correctly put the results of the enquiry and that the conclusions should firstly include :-

1. No proof found of any involvement by Mr Heath in paedophile activities.
2. Allegations of an Elite Conspiracy cannot be supported by any evidence.
3. Seven accusations cannot be disproved or supported by evidence.

The attempt by Mr Macpherson to whitewash the conclusions and cover for Mr Veal is mistaken and he should have controlled Mr Veals activities better and as the representative of the Wiltshire residents should have done better.

I have voted for Mr Macpherson twice. He is unlikely to get my vote again.

1) Home Office - Press Office

2) Wiltshire Police - Press Office

Dear

Can you let me have any feedback on the attached story before 18.00 BST
5.10.2017 please ?

I have requested a similar response from Wiltshire Police.

Best

From:

Sent: 05 October 2017 15:21

To:

Cc: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: RE: Operation Conifer

Dear

Thank you for this but, following a call from Angus yesterday, I was promised a copy of this report at 11am today before it went into the public domain. So I'm very disappointed that your partner organisations were not afforded the respect that your PCC appeared to be affording us.

Sent 05/10/2017

Dear

I acknowledge receipt of your email.

As different offices deal with complaints and FOI requests, I will forward your email to them both this afternoon and ask them to contact you accordingly in due course.

Regards

Dear

Thank you for your website contact on 6th October 2017.

I note your views. They do not appear to be shared by the Home Secretary who has allocated £1.1 million to cover the costs of the investigation.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From: formpost@contensis.co.uk [<mailto:formpost@contensis.co.uk>]

Sent: 06 October 2017 10:21

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: PCC website contact

Contensis Email Notification

Project - wiltshire-pcc

<http://cms.wiltshire.pcc.contensis.co.uk/>

A new form post has been received.



Posted on: 06/10/2017 10:20:16

Posted from: <http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/Contact/Contact-Us.aspx>

Form Post

Name:

Email:

Message: I was disgusted to hear the Chief Constable trying to defend his investigation into Sir Edward Heath. This investigation was a complete waste of public money. The Chief Constable also appeared to indicate over the period of this investigation that the ex prime minister has something to hide rather than be neutral. I believe that the only outcome should be that the Chief Constable should resign from his post



Dear

Thank you for your email to the Police and Crime Commissioner dated 06 October 2017.

We will respond to you shortly.

Regards

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon

Telephone: 01380 734 022

Website: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PCCWiltsSwindon

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 06 October 2017 10:06

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Operation Conifer

Dear Mr. McPherson,

The Times today, 6th October, devotes two critical pages to Operation Conifer as well as a leader titled "Fantasists and Farce", a letter to the editor and a worrying article from Dr Richard Hoskins who was, it appears part of the investigation.

As a Wiltshire council tax payer who has prosecuted, defended and tried historical allegations of sexual misconduct I am happy in order to save yet more costs to review the report.

Yours

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

I have received several letters challenging my use of the word victim. I used the word four times in the interview I gave to the BBC World at One about the Wiltshire Police investigation into the late Sir Edward Heath.

The challenge is a fair one. I agree that it is implicit in the word that an offence has been committed against the individuals concerned. In the interview I was however careful to refer to the allegations made just as often as I referred to them as victims. This I hoped would balance the coverage. I could have made reference to alleged victims. This however, tends to suggest doubt about their truthfulness.

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In conclusion, I would add that the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

Yours Sincerely

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Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From:

Sent: 05 October 2017 23:39

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Report: Wiltshire police investigation into allegations against Edward Heath.

To: Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.

pcc@wiltshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

I enclose this email for your information which I sent to Sky News

Sky News 05 10 2017

Report: Wiltshire police investigation into allegations against Edward Heath. news@sky.com

First I would like to congratulate Sky TV on how they handled the above.

It is clear the content of the Chief Constables report about 80% of it was trying it appears to protect his own back and his officers. What finished me was the comment by Edward's Heath's private secretary; a so called victim was smuggled into Edwards Heath house by way of the back garden. This required them to cross a river and a lawn covered by sensors and guarded by Special Branch Officers. The police who had never visited the back garden yet were questioning the private secretary about this alleged offence?

The police referred to victims and survivors they can only be that if something is proved to have happened this description means the police could have already made their minds up that Edward Heath was guilty or maybe they wished he was guilty to cover up their own inadequacies? If I remember correctly the excuse for this description from the Chief Constable was they were following national police guidelines, you do not have to follow guidelines these officers are not robots or are they. Obviously the days when detectives modelled themselves on Sherlock Holmes have regrettably disappeared in Wiltshire?

What a waste of public money another £1.5 million down the drain.

As far as I am concerned the Chief Constable it appears has reached his level of incompetence therefore he is a waste of space and should be dismissed immediately or asked to resign.

My views do not matter in the scheme of things therefore what should happen is a Judge led enquiry into the police investigation ASAP and the Police Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon should be asking for this if not demanding.

Sent 10/10/2017

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Yours Sincerely

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Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From:

Sent: 06 October 2017 20:30

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Complaint regarding interview with Mr Angus MacPherson on the BBC Radio 4 programme The World at One on Thursday 05/10/17

Dear Sir

I am contacting you in relation to an interview with Mr Angus MacPherson on the BBC Radio 4 programme The World at One on Thursday 05/10/17 concerning the recently concluded investigation into serious allegations against Sir Edward Heath.

The published report explicitly stated there should be no inference of guilt or innocence on the part of Sir Edward. I was, however, very surprised to hear Mr MacPherson refer on at least three separate occasions to the so-called "victims". "The victims have come forward the victims have been listened to we need to give the victims confidence to come forward" and so on.

As a listener to the programme the only thing I could infer from these comments is that Mr MacPherson regards Sir Edward as guilty of these serious allegations. If the individual claimants are now regarded as victims they must have suffered a criminal offence at the hands Sir Edward. If Mr MacPherson has such evidence he should place it in the public domain and if he doesn't he should be more measured in media interviews. Perhaps he has his own reasons for making these comments on the BBC but I am both surprised and disappointed that someone in a prominent public position should resort to such low tactics.

I have taken this matter up with BBC Complaints and they have informed me today they are now dealing with it. Similarly, I will be contacting the Wiltshire Conservative Party and local media organisations.

Please note that I have never been a supporter of Edward Heath and I am not connected with the Conservative Party. In fact, I have been a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party and have no particular axe to grind other than being shocked at what I see as an attack on the reputation of a deceased statesman who cannot defend himself and neither can Sir Edward's supporters bring an action for libel against those whose public position gives them easy access to the national media.

Mr MacPherson should take the earliest opportunity to clarify to the public on whether he believes Sir Edward's accusers are indeed his victims. If he believes they are merely accusers he should apologise for the unfair inference.

Yours faithfully

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 7th October 2017. The Chief Constable has not to my knowledge accepted any of the allegations made against the late Sir Edward Heath. It is not his place to do so. The role of the police is to investigate.

As you will know, the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That Inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

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Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From:

Sent: 07 October 2017 11:37

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Cc:

Subject: Sir Edward Heath

Dear Sir/Madam

The report has now been published by the Wiltshire force concerning allegations against the former PM, Sir Edward Heath.

From what I have read, it appears that there is no evidence whatsoever against this man, and that the report merely serves to cover up the inadequacies (to put it mildly) of those misguided or malicious persons who were involved in such a travesty of justice.

One might reasonably ask why your Chief Officer apparently saw fit to accept the allegations of a paedophile jailbird, with a forty year history of child abuse, as facts worthy of investigation – even though Scotland Yard had long ago dismissed these same absurd allegations. Is one to assume that every mentally-disturbed criminal is to be listened to as though he or she were St Francis or Mother Theresa? And why was it, many of us ask, that one of your senior officers was able to stand outside the house of Sir Edward and tout for persons to come forward and make their vile accusations against a dead man?

The Wiltshire force ('farce' might be more appropriate!) is now a byword for smearing an innocent man (and Heath *is* innocent as there is no possible way he could now be proved guilty) and your Chief Officer is a politically correct idiot who should be prosecuted himself for misconduct in public office. No doubt, though, if past experience is anything to go by, he would scuttle off to a comfortable, early retirement in order to escape investigation.

An apology is now surely necessary to all those relatives and friends of Sir Edward who have been betrayed by the gross incompetence (if not worse) of Wiltshire police. Immediate disciplinary action must be taken against those officers – especially those in senior position – who have abused their

authority, destroyed public confidence in the law and traduced one of the great men of our time. After all, if this appalling travesty of justice is to be repeated, our judicial system would be little better than that of the people's courts of the Third Reich or USSR where the maddest allegations were made against the innocent who had no chance of defending themselves.

This is a shocking, disgraceful episode, and those responsible should have to answer for their thoroughly evil conduct.

Yours sincerely

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 7th October 2017.

I note your views. They do not appear to be shared by the Home Secretary who has allocated £1.1 million to cover the costs of the investigation.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

Sent: 07 October 2017 23:58

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Op Conifer

Dear Sir,

I wish to register my disgust at the waste of time and public money expended on the above abuse inquiry. Wiltshire Police give the Police a bad name with their grotesque and inept handling of the whole matter and I hope 'heads will roll' in the very near future.

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 09 October 2017.

You say that it is a huge waste of money however the Home Secretary does not agree and that is why the government has allocated £1.1 million to cover the costs of the investigation.

You state that the name of Sir Edward Heath has been tarnished. As you will know, the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

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Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

Sent: 09 October 2017 13:28

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Fw: PCC website contact

Dear Mr. Macpherson ,

As you will now be aware , this long-awaited report has been met with almost universal criticism. I will not go over old ground or itemise the reasons - they have already been aired in the media. The fact that credibility was given to a succession of fantasists and compensation seekers shows a serious lack of judgment , unacceptable in senior police officers. This has been a huge waste of money , spent tarnishing the name of a man who had no chance to defend his reputation.

As the head of the Police Force responsible , the Chief Constable must carry the can.

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 9th October 2017.

Dealing with your points in order:

- The press conference in August 2015 should have been held on police premises rather than at the gates of Arundells. The Chief Constable has accepted that this was an error.
- Mr Veale has denied the 120% quote. The reporting of this was entirely hearsay.
- It is difficult to criticise the Chief Constable for defending the reputation of Wiltshire Constabulary.
- We have no detailed information as to the part played by Dr Richard Hoskins. I therefore do not believe it wise to comment on his allegations.
- As you may know the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

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Sent: 09 October 2017 16:43
To: Police and Crime Commissioner
Subject: FAO: Mr Angus Macpherson - Operation Conifer

Dear Mr Macpherson,

Rarely has a report on the findings of a police investigation disintegrated as rapidly as that on Operation Conifer. And rarely has the reputation of a police force been so damaged by the conduct of its senior officers. If these two statements were not true, articles such as those by Dominic Lawson in *The Sunday Times* (8 October) and Matthew Parris in *The Times* (7 October) could not have been written; nor could statements such as those by the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Lord Macdonald (describing the conduct of Wiltshire police as "shameful") and former Cabinet Secretary Lord Butler ("disgraceful") have been made.

The "shamefulness" began at the outset, in August 2015, with the outrageous press conference at the gates of Arundells - for which Chief Constable Veale tried to avoid

responsibility when questioned on the radio last week. This "travesty of the presumption of innocence" (to quote Lawson) has continued for more than two years without regard for the unjustified destruction of a dead man's reputation, exemplified by the opinion attributed to Mr Veale (and not denied) that he was "120% convinced" of Sir Edward Heath's guilt and Mr Veale's use, prior to his report's publication, of Mr Rentaquote, otherwise known as Andrew Bridgen MP; it is clear from the latter and from the fact that most of the report is concerned with defending Wiltshire constabulary's investigation that public relations considerations have been more important than serving the interests of justice.

Perhaps the most damning verdict on the conduct of your constabulary has come from the man it commissioned to look at the allegations, Dr Richard Hoskins, who has said unequivocally that "they [Wiltshire police] believed from the outset that Edward Heath was guilty. That is all they wanted me to prove". So much for *your* assurance that "the Force has not sought to determine the guilt or innocence of Sir Edward Heath". So much for "no inference of guilt"!

Given Dr Hoskins' conclusion that the allegations against Sir Edward were "a catalogue of fabrication", it is clear that the real "victim" in this case is Sir Edward himself. Yet, very sadly, I fear that most people reading or hearing about this case will have been left in little doubt of Wiltshire constabulary's presumption because of its handling of the case from the beginning. This would also explain why people who worked with Sir Edward so closely, in some cases throughout his career, have not even been interviewed - not only political colleagues but also, for example, a former police protection officer who offered to give evidence, was ignored and has now joined those who undermine the veracity of the Operation Conifer report. On the other hand, it seems that Chief Constable Veale has preferred to have contact (as Lord Macdonald put it) "with someone who has previously been jailed for making false sex crime allegations against people". And yet you still have confidence in your chief officer?

I have read today that although you wrote in June that "an independent review of the evidence, perhaps by a retired judge, is required", you have now changed your mind. I urge you to change it again and to agree that there is an urgent need for the material collected through the investigation to be reviewed by a retired judge.

I should add that I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Edward Heath on several occasions between the 1960s and 1990s: there is no public figure I can think of who was more unlikely to have committed the acts alleged against him. He himself said in 1965: "It is idle to pretend that any of us in public life should think we can afford standards of conduct - either in public or in private - which do not bear looking into." He was not a hypocrite: like so many others who knew him much better than I did, I believe this was the principle which governed his own conduct.

Yours sincerely,

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 9th October 2017.

As regards a judge-led inquiry, the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

The Chief Constable has expressly denied the 120% guilty quote attributed to him.

I agree there are many complex and conflicting issues surrounding this investigation. The government has established IICSA and I believe that the Inquiry must be given an opportunity to consider the full report.

Given the above, you will appreciate that I do not agree with your contention that the reputation of the Wiltshire force has been tarnished.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

Sent: 09 October 2017 22:47
To: Police and Crime Commissioner
Subject: Operation Conifer

Dear Mr Macpherson,

I see from today's Times that as in your letter to me of 11/4, you have now written to Dale Campbell-Savours, hardly a member of the establishment, about appointing a retired High Court Judge to consider the evidence. The Chief Constable, supported by John Glen MP, opposes you on this! It is unacceptable that Mike Veale continues to make accusations about establishment cover-ups while at the same time refusing to support an independent review which would include the behaviour of your officers at a press conference in front of Arundells designed to entice victims of abuse to come forward under the umbrella of anonymity and without any evidence.

It is your role to hold the Chief Constable to account. For example: Did he or did he not say he thought that Ted Heath was 120% guilty. How many times has he spoken with John Glen the MP for Salisbury? When and for how long? Did he give any intimation at any time to John about Edward Heath's guilt? Does he really believe as reported today that the establishment are after him? Or that there is a cover up conspiracy at the top of Government waiting to be investigated?

You must admit that this operation is full of complex and conflicting issues that require incredible sensitivity. How long after someone has died can you investigate alleged criminal offences that have emerged after their deaths? How do you maintain balance if the identifiers of the accused cannot (rightly) be divulged.? How much should be spent on investigations of this sort when there can be no prosecution?

All of this is difficult enough without the Chief Constable and his defenders indulging in leaked briefings that suggest there is an establishment cover up. This has all the signs of a nasty political smear. Is the Chief Constable suggesting Lord Armstrong, Lord Hunt, Ken Clarke, Lord MacDonald & Lincoln Seligman are all involved in trying to hide Ted Heath's criminality? It is simply preposterous. Are you as a member of the British Empire and by definition a member of the establishment, going along with the egregious behaviour of your Chief Constable?

Currently under your leadership the reputation of the Wiltshire Force is being severely tarnished.

Yours sincerely,

Sent 10/10/2017

Thank you for your email dated 10th October 2017. I am always interested in the views of taxpayers. I hope you have noted that the Home Secretary has £1.1 million to Wiltshire to cover the cost of the investigation clearly central government do not regard the expenditure as a waste of taxpayers money.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

Sent: 10 October 2017 11:12

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject: Wiltshire Police Investigation regarding the late Ted Heath

Dear Mr. MacPherson

Thank you for your reply to my email of the 26th September. I have delayed a response until the publication of the recent government report. I hope you understand my prerequisite of "if" because it appears you are supporting the chief constable in the course of this investigation.

I understand that the recent report states that Edward Heath would have faced questioning if he had been alive and presumably it would have been for the CPS to decide if there was sufficient evidence to prosecute.

I imagine that after 12 years it is now quite academic. I see in the press that Jonathan Caplan QC states that the CPS has long ago stated it cannot make charging decisions in relation to deceased persons. The investigation amounts to a payroll of 50 new police officers; he asks where does the public interest lie? As surely the outcome must have been obvious.

You will have detailed knowledge in to the background of this investigation but to a layman the costs and police time involved appears disproportionate to other crimes taking place at the present time.

I am sure you do not wish to enter into a series of correspondence but I hope you are interested in the views of laymen and tax payers whether it is funded by Wiltshire or central government.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Sent 10/10/2017

Dear Mr Macpherson

I am grateful to you for your response to my email in what must be a difficult time.

Regards

On Oct 10, 2017, at 14:19, Police and Crime Commissioner
<PoliceandCrimeCommissioner@wiltshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk> wrote:

I have received several letters challenging my use of the word victim. I used the word four times in the interview I gave to the BBC World at One about the Wiltshire Police investigation into the late Sir Edward Heath.

The challenge is a fair one. I agree that it is implicit in the word that an offence has been committed against the individuals concerned. In the interview I was however careful to refer to the allegations made just as often as I referred to them as victims. This I hoped would balance the coverage. I could have made reference to alleged victims. This however, tends to suggest doubt about their truthfulness.

There are two competing principles at stake. One is the need to be fair to anyone against whom allegations are made. The other is to avoid putting hurdles in front of those who really have been victims of sexual crimes which would not be faced by victims of other crimes. If a house is ransacked the police will treat the owner as a victim of domestic burglary. If the same individual alleges that a sexual assault has been perpetrated, that individual should be treated in the same way - as a victim of a crime.

Sir Richard Henriques covered this ground in his report into Operation Midland. He was a strong advocate of a change in terminology. As yet, the national policing guidance has not changed. The Chief Constable explained his use of the term in the Operations Conifer report. I have been careful to qualify my use of the term victim by referring to allegations that they have made.

In conclusion, I would add that the full report has been sent to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse at their request. That inquiry must, in my view, now conduct an expeditious, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence. That, in turn, must conclude whether there is on balance sufficient evidence to make a finding of fact one way or the other. Should the Inquiry prove unable or unwilling to take this task on, I will reiterate my earlier call for the government to establish a judge-led review of the evidence.

Yours Sincerely

Angus Macpherson
Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2DN
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From: formpost@contensis.co.uk [<mailto:formpost@contensis.co.uk>]

Sent: 05 October 2017 14:52

To: Police and Crime Commissioner

Subject:

Contensis Email Notification



Project - wiltshire-pcc

<http://cms.wiltshire.pcc.contensis.co.uk/>

A new form post has been received.



Posted on: 05/10/2017 14:51:26

Posted from: <http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/Contact/Contact-Us.aspx>

Form Post

Name:

Email:

I listened to the Commissioner's wholly unsatisfactory interview on the World at One programme today. I am perplexed as to why he referred to 'victims' in the Heath investigation. A victim is someone who has been injured or harmed. If employed without qualification its use asserts a certain fact. The Commissioner has no such factual evidence. Why did the Commissioner not use the words 'complainant' or 'alleged victim' ? Because he seeks to cover up appalling incompetence and his manifest unsuitability for the position. Sadly Wiltshire has been badly let down here by its Chief Constable and Commissioner. If they had an ounce of self respect they would resign. My only consolation is that I do not live in Wiltshire. I do hope that all right thinking folk in that splendid county now mobilise to secure resignations. Hopefully the Home Office

Message: will also press for that. Regards

Sent: 10/10/2017

Dear Mr Macpherson,

Thank you: while I am grateful for your prompt response, I do find it rather less than satisfactory. I would appreciate further clarification on these same points:

- I welcome your admission that the press conference should not have been held at Arundells. However, it was *what was said* by Supt Memory, as well as where it was said, that was reprehensible. Unfortunately, the Chief Constable appeared more concerned last week to try to avoid responsibility for this woefully ill-judged initiative which coloured the entire investigation.
- I would like to know when, in what terms and to whom Mr Veale denied the 120% quote.
- It is not difficult to criticise a report of which 70% is devoted to a justification of the investigation - but which lacks corroborating evidence or the information which can enable people (like the former police protection officer who has nevertheless already come forward) to challenge it.
- I do not understand your statement. Is it not the case that Dr Richard Hoskins was commissioned by Wiltshire police to examine evidence arising from the investigation? Is it not the case that he produced a 158-page report? He says the police were "very unhappy" about this "because it didn't prove what they wanted it to". Never before, in 200 criminal investigations, had this independent expert witness been pressured to reach a predetermined conclusion.
- I understand that the remit of Professor Jay's inquiry is to investigate institutions, not individuals; moreover, its terms of reference make no mention of "conspiracy", despite Mr Veale's attempt to distract attention from his flawed investigation by resurrecting a claim for which no evidence has been found.

Your further comments would be welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Sent 10/10/2017

The Home Office reluctantly paid the £1.1 million to prevent Wiltshire Police running out of money , as I explained in my email 26th. September - you just cannot keep using this as a justification for tacit approval of this whole charade.

Sent: 10/10/2017

Dear Mr Macpherson

I am grateful for your personal and prompt response.

I can agree with the wish to avoid putting unnecessary hurdles in the path of genuine victims. However, I am not sure about the comparison with domestic burglary where the victim can point to significant and objective evidence of a crime shortly after the offence but is rarely able to accuse a specific individual. As far as I am aware, in the case of Sir Edward Heath, there was only a series of allegations made after a lengthy time period with little or no objective evidence.

Your reference to the need for fairness in relation to the two competing principles is to be welcomed. In the light of this, perhaps the Police Service in Wiltshire will review the fairness of the decision by senior officers to conduct a media interview outside the former home of Sir Edward.

I appreciate that you are very busy and as such I do not expect you to enter into further correspondence but once again I would like to thank you for responding.

Yours sincerely

Sent: 11 October 2017 07:55

> To: Police and Crime Commissioner

> Subject: Fwd: Danny Finklestein on Operation Conifer

Mr Macpherson. Are you going to act on this or do you believe this is another example of an establishment cover up?

Sent from my iPhone

Sent: 11 October 2017 17:51

> To: Police and Crime Commissioner

> Subject: Chief Constable

Dear Mr Macpherson

You must be wishing you had looked beyond Mike Veale as your Chief Constable two years ago. I think it is both safe and sad to write that he has brought both the Wiltshire Police and the Police Force (or is it 'Service' nowadays?) in general into disrepute and those who appointed him. He's made you look a right fool in only interviewing a single candidate who has subsequently proved to be inadequate. At a personal level, I have had no dealings with Mr Veale or Wiltshire Police; my own concern is one that I have been discussing socially over the last two years but reaching a crescendo in the last week relating to his pursuit of Edward Heath. I was no fan of the former Prime Minister; I believe he misled the country over entry into the European Union (EEC) and although I don't have hard feelings one way or the other on that issue, it smacks of dishonesty. However, that does not justify the report that was published last week which is more interesting because of its omissions than what it contains. The article by Lord Finkelstein in today's edition of The Times expresses matters most eloquently and seems to be speaking for every single person I have spoken to on this issue, that Mike Veale should leave his position. To leave him there is tacit acceptance of falling standards and a failure to honour the responsibilities of public office.

Yours Sincerely

Sent: 11/10/2017
To: Angus Macpherson

FYI all;

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-41586056>

Clare Mills
Head of Corporate Communications and Engagement
Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Email: clare.mills@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sent: 11/10/2017

To: Angus Macpherson

Thanks Clare. Angus will be in this afternoon. Can we meet you to discuss a response. Finkelstein's piece contains a very particular complaint that we need to consider.

Regards,
Kieran

Kieran Kilgallen
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
London Road,
Devizes,
Wiltshire

Tel : 01380 734022

Fax: 01380 735746

www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC

www.twitter.com/PCCWiltsSwindon

Sent: 11/10/2017
To: Angus Macpherson

Hi both,

You'll be aware that Mike continues to be personally attacked in the media, particularly around calls for his to resign (see most recent piece attached in The Times).

*I think it would be **very** wise for Angus to send something out proactively today strongly in support of Mike if he feels minded to do so to try and help redress this unfair balance in the press. This is also considered important in the continued absence of any intervention by the NPCC or Hydrant despite our best efforts. Suggested wording below – please feel free to add etc.*

Important statement from PCC Angus Macpherson

“There have been calls for the Wiltshire Chief Constable Mike Veale to resign, or for me to dismiss him, over Operation Conifer. I consider these calls to be fundamentally and indisputably misguided.

“Mr Veale is a highly experienced chief constable, running a force that has been independently assessed as one of the most effective and efficient in the country.

“Operation Conifer came within the scope of the Chief Constables operational independence. My role is governance. In light of recent media coverage, it is very important that I state unequivocally that I am entirely satisfied that the Operation Conifer investigation has been balanced, fair and transparent. It has been independently reviewed by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and found to be reasonable and proportionate; it has been peer reviewed twice by a national team; and has complied fully with the College of Policing national guidance.

“I have, and continue to have, total confidence in Mr Veale as the Chief Constable, and the investigation team who worked tirelessly and professionally on this investigation.”

Thanks both

Clare

Clare Mills
Head of Corporate Communications and Engagement
Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Email: clare.mills@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sent: 10/10/2017
To: Angus Macpherson

Hi all,

Please see below a summary of the main points covered in the media over the last few days ref Op Conifer which hopefully helps show the themes that the papers are following.

That said, all looks very quiet today which is good.

Kind regards

Clare

Saturday 7 Oct:

Telegraph:

- Rape claim dropped by Scotland Yard 2 years ago (jailed paedophile and 'habitual liar')
- We described him as a 'victim'
- Our failure to disclose this in the summary report
- Seligman – Chief should consider his position
- WP denial that any victims had gone to the press

Times:

- The most serious claim was 'investigated and dropped' by Met
- CC accused of misleading the public

Daily Mail:

- The most serious claim was 'investigated and dropped' by Met
- CC forced to admit there was no evidence of the former peers guilt
- Lincoln Seligman accusing the force of deception
- 2 complainants made compensation claims
- Nick made allegations aboard Morning Cloud
- Judge led enquiry called for

Sky:

- SEH charitable foundation preparing a substantial complaint for IPCC
- Lord Hunt:
 - Urgent need for an independent judge led review
 - Innocent until proven guilty

Telegraph

- IPCC complaint being made by SEH friends against CC Veale and his officers 'unsatisfactory and prejudicial investigation'
- Most serious allegation made against him had been dropped by Scotland Yard in 2015
- Lord Hunt seeking access to the full report
- Challenge why a number of people who knew him were not interviewed

BBC:

- The most serious claim was 'investigated and dropped' by Met
- WP refuse to say if they have evidence

- SEH charitable foundation calling for judge led review

Sunday 8 Oct:

Mail on Sunday:

- CC calling for inquiry into Westminster cover up
- Victims are victims regardless of who they are or what background they come from
- Victims need to be able to trust the police

The Times:

- Supporters calling for judge led review
- Supporters making complaint to IPCC
- Investigation was 'flawed'

Guardian:

- Flawed justice system
- Polarised response to the investigation
- Police have shown casual disregard for Heaths reputation
- Investigation beset by leaks which have found themselves into the press
- Use of the term 'victim' in line with guidance (and reference to Henriques view)

Monday 9 Oct:

The Sun:

- Not one of the 190 people questioned saw anything untoward
- Rape case investigated and dropped by the Met

The Times:

- PCC called for independent review back in June but has now changed his mind and thinks IICSA right place for investigation findings to be looked into

The Daily Mail:

- Keith Vaz letter to the CC when he was chair of HASC – inappropriate pressure on the CC

Also article in The Mail ref the rape victim allegedly not believing that SEH was a paedophile
That the victim is writing a book in prison detailing his allegations with SEH

Clare Mills

Head of Corporate Communications and Engagement

Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon

Email: clare.mills@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sent: 06/10/2017
To: Angus Macpherson

FYI

Simone Matthews
Communications Officer

From: Matthews, Simone
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:37
To: 'fiona.hamilton@thetimes.co.uk'
Subject: Operation Conifer enquiry

Hi Fiona

I have spoken to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the information you are referring to is the operational detail of the investigation and the Force published their report yesterday, which is available on the Wiltshire Police website.

If you haven't seen it already I would like to point you towards the statement the Police and Crime Commissioner made yesterday copied below for your ease with a number of paragraphs highlighted below for your attention.

Best wishes

Simone

Thursday 5 October 2017

“Putting victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do” is one of my top priorities as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.

People who have been the victim of child sexual abuse should have the confidence to come forward and know they will be taken seriously and listened to by the police.

Today Wiltshire Police has published its report into the allegations made against the late Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister.

The investigation, known as Operation Conifer, was carried out on behalf of the police service nationally.

It took place amid intense media interest.

There have been calls for the Chief Constable, Mike Veale, to resign - or for me to sack him. I consider these to be fundamentally misguided.

Mike Veale is an experienced chief constable, leading a force that has been independently assessed as one of the most effective and efficient in the country.

At various stages I have been asked to comment on this investigation. It would have been wrong for me to do so ahead of today's publication. That is because, under the Policing Protocol, chief constables have total discretion to investigate crimes and individuals as they see fit.

It was right and proper for him to conduct this investigation with complete operational independence.

My role is governance. I am satisfied that Operation Conifer has been:

- Independently reviewed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and found to be reasonable and proportionate.
- Peer reviewed twice by a national team bringing insights and lessons learned from other child sexual abuse investigations, and it has
- Followed College of Policing guidance to the letter.

Investigating allegations of child sexual abuse is a top priority for the Government.

This investigation was carried out on behalf of 14 police forces. The Home Secretary Amber Rudd has acknowledged that by agreeing to pay £1.1m towards the total cost of £1.5m.

I am pleased that the Prime Minister, Theresa May, expressed her support for the investigation in a BBC interview last week.

Quite rightly the Force has not sought to determine the guilt or innocence of Sir Edward Heath. That is not the job of the police.

I welcome the decision by IICSA, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, to request a copy of the full Operation Conifer report.

IICSA will need time to consider what it can and cannot do with the report under its terms of reference.

In my view this extraordinary case merits a timely, rigorous and fair examination of the evidence as part of IICSA's Westminster inquiry strand.

Victims, as I said earlier, are a top priority for me. I am greatly reassured by the care and attention focused by Wiltshire Police on all those who have come forward to say they were abused.

I hope the report published today will reassure victims that allegations of sexual abuse will be taken seriously and investigated - without fear or favour.

Simone Matthews
PCC Communications Officer

Sent: 06/10/2017
To: Angus Macpherson

Hi Angus and Naji

Zara has been looking through the coverage from yesterday and has found the following.

OP Conifer – Wiltshire PCC – 06/10/2017

BBC Radio 4 – World at One - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05j403j>

BBC News – Online - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41503143>

BBC Radio Wiltshire (in at 1.22) - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05fqt8v>

BBC News Online – West of England - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-bristol-41498923>

Best wishes

Simone

Simone Matthews
Communications Officer

Wiltshire Police | Corporate Communications
Police Headquarters| London Road| Devizes| Wiltshire| SN10 2DN

Corp Comms group Phone No: 01380 861098
Email: Simone.matthews@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Police website: www.wiltshire.police.uk
PCC website: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk
Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging: www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

Sent: 05/10/2017

To: Angus Macpherson

Hi team,

I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you and well done to you all for your professionalism and hard work over the last few days particularly (and longer still for many of you!) regarding Operation Conifer. This investigation, as you know, has had a extremely high profile - and today was a critical day for the investigation, Mike, Paul, Angus and the Force.

Your individual and collective support and assistance has been greatly appreciated and I am absolutely sure I speak for Mike, Paul and Angus too when I say that the event today has been superbly executed and **really** professional - so much so that a large number of the media have said that it was the most well organised press conference they have ever been to (which is praise indeed! ☺).

I know some long hours have been put in and tiredness is kicking in, but we are nearly there. I think that today has gone as well as it could possibly have gone, and whether you were front of house or behind the scenes, that's down to the organisation, dedication and conscientiousness of you all.

I feel really proud to work with such a great team of people, thank you all for your efforts, its much appreciated.

Clare

Clare Mills
Head of Corporate Communications and Engagement

From: Councillor David Renard
Sent: 05 October 2017 15:21
To: Veale, Mike;
Cc: Police and Crime Commissioner
Subject: RE: Operation Conifer

Dear Mike

Thank you for this but, following a call from Angus yesterday, I was promised a copy of this report at 11am today before it went into the public domain. So I'm very disappointed that your partner organisations were not afforded the respect that your PCC appeared to be affording us.

David

Cllr David Renard
Leader Swindon Council
Haydon Wick Ward (Con)

01793 463424
www.swindon.gov.uk

Sent from my Windows 10 phone

Received: 05/10/2017

Please see the corrected YouTube links below.

**Rationale for Whole Force email: Operation Conifer Report published
Whole Force Email sent on behalf of ACC Paul Mills**

Dear Colleagues

Wiltshire Police has just published the Operation Conifer Summary Closure Report.

This was a national investigation, led by Wiltshire Police on behalf of the Police Service nationally, into allegations of non-recent child abuse made against the late Sir Edward Heath.

A media facility is being held now at Gablecross Police Station in Swindon, where local and national press are being briefed by me and the Chief Constable on what is contained in the Report. Our statements are also being live streamed on the Wiltshire Police Facebook page starting from just after 11am until approximately 11.30am.

The Report, together with our Media Statement and a Video Statement from the Chief Constable is now available on our website www.wiltshire.police.uk

However staff can access a copy of the Report directly on our intranet here: [Operation Conifer Summary Closure Report](#)

Both video interviews are also available to view on these direct links to YouTube:

- **Chief Constable** – <https://youtu.be/dxmkTI65V3U>
- **ACC Paul Mills** - <https://youtu.be/gWalqMpJ2Eq>

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner media release and video interview will be published at the same time on the OPCC website, Facebook and Twitter page. The OPCC video interview can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/NwHikadOd58>

Any media enquiries relating to Operation Conifer should be referred to the Press Office. Any members of the public who may want to make additional disclosures relating to Operation Conifer should be directed to the Operation Conifer team via the 101 number. People can also give their feedback through the Force website 'Contact Us' section online or via letter to Devizes HQ.

The publication of this Report is the result of the dedication, diligence and tenacity of a great many officers and staff over the last two years.

I thank them all for their effort and professionalism throughout.

Thank you

Paul Mills

Assistant Chief Constable

Received: 04/10/2017

Angus and Mike have asked that a copy of the Operation Conifer summary closure report is sent to the two council leaders (David Reynard and Jane Scott) at **11am** tomorrow (Thurs), please would you mind doing this if possible?

Some proposed wording below (to be sent on behalf of Mike please Gem)

Dear David and Jane,

As you'll be aware, today Wiltshire Police have published their report into Operation Conifer, the investigation carried out by us on behalf of the police service, into allegations of non-recent child abuse against Sir Edward Heath.

Your comms teams have been informed on our plans for publication and your Heads of Safeguarding have also received a high level briefing from ACC Mills.

Please find below a link to the report, which has been published on the force website today. (ADD LINK FROM WEBSITE PLEASE GEM, IT WILL BE ON THERE AS OF 11AM)

Many thanks

Mike

Thanks Gem,

Clare

Received: 04/10/2017

Good evening

Here is the most up-to-date version of the Q&As ... good bedtime reading.

See you in the morning

Paul and Simone

Received: 04/10/2017

Dear all

Please find a re-send of this Op Conifer media invitation - this is being sent again to ensure every media outlet has it. Also please note the start time of 9.30am and not 10am as some of you may originally had.

Thanks

Wiltshire Police Media Release



Date: 03 October 2017

Not for publication

Details of Op Conifer media briefing

Thank you for confirming your attendance at the Operation Conifer briefing on Thursday (October 5).

Attached is the embargo agreement which must be signed by the reporter attending the briefing and their Editor and brought along to the briefing. **Without this completed form you will not be given the report ahead of it being published at 11am.**

You must also bring along a current, accredited press pass.

Please note the amended timings of the briefing.

Running order for the day:

9.30am: Arrival and set up. Briefing by Head of Media Services Scott McPherson at 9.50am prompt

10am - 11am: Time to read the Op Conifer Summary Closure Report. **Embargo in place.** Opportunity to make interview requests for Chief Constable Mike Veale, Operation Conifer Gold Commander Assistant Chief Constable Paul Mills, PCC Angus Macpherson and the Independent Scrutiny Panel. Running order established.

11am - 11.30am: **EMBARGO LIFTS AT 11AM.** Media briefing with CC Veale and ACC Mills. This can be filmed live

11.30am - 12.15pm: Opportunity for pooled Q and A with CC Veale and ACC Mills (namely for print journalists while TV/Radio teams set up equipment)

12.30pm: 1-2-1 interviews with CC Veale and ACC Mills to begin (using running order agreed earlier in the day)

12.45pm onwards: Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson

and the Independent Scrutiny panel available for interviews

2.15pm - 2.45pm: Break

2.45pm - 4.15pm: Continue 1-2-1s

4.15pm - 4.45pm: Break

5pm - 7pm: Conclude 1-2-1s and live bids for local TV.

It would be helpful for us to know in advance what interview requests you might have and whether or not these are live or pre-recorded. We will do our best to facilitate these but we might have to ask some media outlets to share interview slots. Please email your interview requests to PressHQ@Wiltshire.pnn.police.uk and use 'Op Conifer request' in the subject header.

The briefing is being held at Gablecross Police Station, Shrivenham Road, Swindon SN3 4RB. We ask that members of the media park in the main car park which will be through the raised barrier to the left hand side of the building. Please do not use the smaller visitors car park as this will be in use by members of the public.

On arrival, please come to the reception area and sign in at the designated desk.

Please note, tea and coffee will be provided but there will be no access to the canteen.

Notes to editors:

Notes to Editors:

Please note, we are continuing to get requests for comment on Op Conifer matters. Until Thursday, this is all we are issuing regarding this:

The Operation Conifer summary closure report will be published on Thursday 5 October 2017. As per our position throughout this investigation, we will not be commenting on any operational detail until such time we publish our report.

The operational security of the investigation and the anonymity of the people who have come forward remains of paramount importance to Wiltshire Police. It is for that reason that we strongly discourage any speculation concerning any investigation detail and/or outcome.

Documents

- Embargoed media briefing form - Op Conifer.docx [Embargoed media briefing form - Op Conifer.docx](#)

Received: 03/10/2017

FYI

Story cites “a source close to the investigation” (highlighted in yellow)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/03/nick-accused-sir-edward-heath-abusing-aboard-sailing-yacht/>

Received: 03/10/2017

Hi Angus and Naji

How is the conversation with the Chief going. We are all set to update the Q&As re the Mail on Sunday stuff.

As we haven't heard from you, shall we assume that no news is good news?

Simone and I will be at GX from 0800 tomorrow. Can we please arrange some time to speak once Angus has joined us.

Our priorities are to get the attached Q&As updated and signed off, so that we can do some much-needed practice work with Angus during the afternoon.

We also need final sign-off on the statement before we print it to add to the media packs along with the biography which we have.

Naji: please keep in touch regularly as we don't know what tomorrow will bring Conifer-wise.

Thanks

Paul and Simone

PS: We don't think we'll hear from you this evening, so we are now heading home.

Received: 03/10/2017

Hi Scott

As discussed, here are the 1:1 interview bids for Angus on Thursday:

BBC NEWS

I am organising the national coverage of Conifer for BBC News. We would be keen to interview Angus Macpherson on the afternoon of 5 October. I have separately requested interviews with the Chief Constable and Gold Commander. Tom Symonds is likely to be the person who conducts the interview, but we will also have other correspondents present on the day.

Daniel De Simone
0787 668 5918
Daniel.DeSimone01@bbc.co.uk

SKY NEWS

To confirm, we would like an interview next week with Angus Macpherson following the Operation Conifer briefing. It will either be my colleague Tom Parmenter, Martin Brunt, Andy Hughes or Darren Little.

Jessica
jessica.tully@sky.uk
Rose.HughesGretton@sky.uk

PA

Claire Hayhurst and I will be attending the Operation Conifer briefing on October 5. If possible, we would like to be able to interview the PCC. It would be an on-camera interview, if that is okay? I can be contacted on 07971 611 281. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes,

Rod Minchin
West of England Correspondent
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
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+44 (0)7557 157 237
heart.co.uk
@CharlotteGay92

ITV Meridian

Kate Taylor (not ours!)
084 488 12135
ITV News Meridian
kate.taylor@itv.com

BBC WILTSHIRE

Dan O'Brien
Political Reporter
BBC Wiltshire

NB: I did not hear from **Points West**, but I imagine that is an oversight, so we should expect they will also want a 1:1 with Angus.

Received: 03/10/2017

Dear all,

Sorry for the lateness of this, thought I had sent before I left office.

Please find the draft wording regarding these lines. Can you comment and amend to align wording to other statements. We still need to refine the last question re judge-led review and reflect on Force position.

Has James Gray MP written to the commissioner outlining his concern between contact with CC Mike Veale and Andrew Bridgen MP?

James Gray MP has not written to me directly but I have been copied into email correspondences in which Mr Gray has asked the Chief Constable Mike Veale questions regarding Operation Conifer

What is the Commissioner going to do with these serious allegations?

My office has not received any allegations of improper conduct regarding the Chief Constable. If any allegations are made these will be assessed and referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in line with usual procedure.

Was the Commissioner aware that the Chief Constable was briefing MPs/Andrew Bridgen?

The Chief Constable has informed me of high level briefings given to a number of stakeholders, including a number of MPs, senior police officers and the Home Office. Receiving advice and challenge has been a consistent part of this investigation and helped deliver a rigorous and fair report.

Does this not break the Code of Conduct for police officers around confidentiality and impartiality?

Briefing stakeholders is an important part of any investigation and careful consideration is given by officers, including the Chief Constable to what they can and cannot share.

I attended some of these briefings myself and have no reason to believe that any codes of conducts have been broken.

Has the Commissioner fulfilled his responsibilities by referring these matters to the IPCC?

There has been no allegation of improper conduct regarding the Chief Constable. If any allegations are made these will be assessed and referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in line with usual procedure.

Lincoln Seligman has been in the media again over the weekend calling for a judge led review – what is the Commissioners view on this?

I welcome the decision by IICSA, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, to request a copy of the full Operation Conifer report.

In my view this extraordinary case merits a timely, rigorous, fair and independent examination of the evidence as part of IICSA's Westminster inquiry strand.

Kind Regards,

Naji Darwish

Deputy Chief Executive

Received: 03/10/2017

Hi Naji

Thanks for the suggestions which I have included in the attached Version 4.

Simone is working on further answers regarding Andrew Bridgen MP and the leaks to the Mail on Sunday and will add those to **Section 7**.

I have added some further Qs and As to **Section 2** arising from a BBC Points West interview yesterday with Sara Morrison, often described as Heath's closest female friend, and a former vice chair of the Conservative Party.

She believes a judge needs to review the evidence. Otherwise, she said, the police are marking their own homework. I am assuming that our line is going to be that we look forward to IICSA studying the evidence as part of its so-called Westminster strand.

Paul

Received: 02/10/2017

Hi Paul,

Excellent Q&A – only some minor tweaks.

We agreed to use the term “experienced Chief Constable” – as it just sounded better when Angus read it – can we change from “highly experienced”.

On page 5 –Q “why do you think this investigation cost so much money?” – last line “the importance the govt attaches to child sexual abuse. Can we amend to “investigating child sexual abuse”

Page 6-7 Q your role is to hold the CC to account.....Can we include paragraph on fear and favour and victims confidence (top of page 9) to match up with other similar Q&A.

Thanks

Received: 02/10/2017

Good morning

Please see Clare's note below re Conifer. I am now in an all-day Conifer rehearsal.

Naji: I would be grateful if you could have a chat to Angus and draft some answers.

Many thanks

Paul

From: Matthews, Simone
Sent: 02 October 2017 16:28
To: Darwish, Naji; Macpherson, Angus
Subject: Urgent questions we need to prep answers for - for Angus

Hi Naji and Angus

Please see some draft answers below.

Please send any feedback and comments my way.

Thank you

Simone

Further to this weekend's media reporting, please can you work with Angus and Naji as a matter of urgency tomorrow morning to prepare answers to the following questions please:

Has James Gray MP written to the commissioner outlining his concern between contact with CC Mike Veale and Andrew Bridgen MP?

James Gray MP has not written to me [directly](#) but I have [been copied into](#) email correspondences from Mr Gray to Chief Constable Mike Veale.

What is the Commissioner going to do with these serious allegations?

My office has not received any allegations of improper conduct regarding the Chief Constable. [Mr Gray has asked the Chief Constable a series of questions relating to Operation Conifer, to which he will reply.](#)

Was the Commissioner aware that the Chief Constable was briefing MPs/Andrew Bridgen?

[The Chief Constable as part of regular briefings in this investigation has informed me of high level briefings given to a number of stakeholders, including a number of MPs, senior police officers and the Home Office. Receiving advice and challenge has been a consistent part of this investigation and helped deliver a rigorous and fair report.](#)

Does this not break the Code of Conduct for police officers around confidentiality and impartiality?

Briefing stakeholders is an important part of any investigation and careful consideration is given by officers, [including the Chief Constable](#) to what they can and cannot share.

I attended some of these briefings myself and have no reason to believe that any codes of conducts have been broken.

Has the Commissioner fulfilled his responsibilities by referring these matters to the IPCC?

There has been no allegation of improper conduct regarding the Chief Constable.

Lincoln Seligman has been in the media again over the weekend calling for a judge led review – what is the Commissioners view on this?(you need to be aware Mikes stance on this is as follows):

I welcome the decision by IICSA, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, to request a copy of the full Operation Conifer report.

In my view this extraordinary case merits a timely, rigorous, fair and independent examination of the evidence as part of IICSA's Westminster inquiry strand.

Simone Matthews
Communications Officer

From: GRAY, James
Sent: 02 October 2017 09:39
To: Veale, Mike
Cc: Macpherson, Angus; RUDD, Amber
Subject: RE: Wiltshire Police report into allegations against Sir Edward Heath

Dear Chief Constable,

Thank you for your email. A number of rather puzzling points arise from it, on each of which I would be grateful for your urgent clarification.

1. You imply that those of us who are deeply concerned about the purpose and cost of Op Conifer are in some way or another undermining Wiltshire Police. Nothing could be further from the truth. My admiration and support for Wiltshire Police is second to none, despite reservations about some recent decisions by senior management.
2. You indicate that you have involved 'a number of trusted stakeholders,' and imply that you have shared at least some part of the draft Op Conifer Report with them. Will you please confirm that they include North West Leicestershire MP Andrew Bridgen, and explain why you felt it in order to share this confidential report with him yet with none of the Wiltshire MPs?
3. Given that you are confident of the national support for Op Conifer, its costs and conduct, why did you feel the need to share any aspect of the confidential report (or indeed its draft) with those who subsequently made public comments in your and the operation's support?
4. Is it anyhow proper to share the details of a police enquiry with outside stakeholders whether or not you view them as 'trusted'? I have to say that I have very grave doubts about its propriety, and may well want to return to this matter at a later stage.
5. Would you object to a judge-led review of Wiltshire Police's conduct in the Op Conifer inquiry and of the evidence the inquiry has relied upon?
6. You indicate that the Wiltshire MPs will be able to view the live streaming of the press conference on Thursday, having not previously seen a copy of the report. How can that be right? Surely the MPs ought to see the report at the very same time, if not before, the press.
7. You have not clarified whether or not the whole report will be available to the press and MPs, or only a redacted version of it. Nor have you advised what will happen to the report. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) have in their letter of 28 September reiterated that any kind of investigation of the guilt or otherwise of Sir Edward is beyond their remit. The Home Secretary has previously said that it is an operational matter for Wiltshire Police, although her partial funding of the costs may indicate a change of stance on that. So I would be glad if you would clarify how open and transparent the report will be, who it will be sent to, and who will conclude with regard to Sir Edward Heath's guilt or lack of it, given that you are already aware that the IICSA cannot do that.
8. I would very much like to take you up on the offer of a high level briefing prior to 5th October. I can be at Wiltshire Police HQ in Devizes at a time of your convenience later today, tomorrow or Wednesday. Do please let me have a suitable date and time as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this email to Angus Macpherson and the Home Secretary.

Kind regards,

James Gray MP

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 5:16:35 PM
To: GRAY, James
Cc: Macpherson, Angus
Subject: FW: Wiltshire Police report into allegations against Sir Edward Heath

Dear Mr Gray

As you will appreciate, this investigation has been subject to significant public scrutiny, speculation and unhelpful commentary which on occasions I believe has been with a motivation to undermine the professionalism and integrity of Wiltshire police. The final report which still remains in draft, will be published on the 5th October 2017. In order for the report to be balanced, fair, measured and accurate, colleagues have engaged with a number of trusted stakeholders and we will continue to do so until this report is published. During this process it has not been necessary to brief you in relation to this matter but if you would like a high level briefing then I am sure I can arrange it prior to the 5th October 2017.

The second point you make is whether your local MP colleagues will be allowed to attend this event. I do apologise, but in line with national best practice this cannot be facilitated as this event is open only to accredited members of the press. I am however taking steps for it to be live streamed so that the wider public can have access to it if they choose to.

I will of course, send a copy of the publication to local MP's at the time of its formal release. I will also extend the offer to discuss the report with you and your colleagues if you so wish.

Kind regards

Mike Veale
Chief Constable

From: GRAY, James [<mailto:JamesGrayMP@parliament.uk>]
Sent: 29 September 2017 11:12
To: Veale, Mike
Cc: Macpherson, Angus
Subject: Wiltshire Police report into allegations against Sir Edward Heath
Importance: High

Dear Chief Constable,

I was very concerned to read in the Sunday Times that a draft copy of Wiltshire Police's report into the allegations against the former Prime Minister Ted Heath was already seen by at least one Member of Parliament. Could you please let me know why the same courtesy was not afforded to any of the Wiltshire MPs?

It is my understanding that the report will be released to the press in a controlled manner next Thursday followed by a press conference in Swindon. Am I right in thinking that local MPs will be allowed to attend the event, and if not, could you please outline the mechanism for sending the report to local MPs so that they can comment on it?

Kind regards,

James Gray MP

Office of the
Police & Crime Commissioner

09 OCT 2017

for Wiltshire and Swindon

Dear Mr McPherson,

7th October 2017

Operation Couifer – Summary Closure Report

I have read this report and am shocked by its contents. It is a self-serving attempt to justify a huge waste of taxpayers money by Wiltshire Police in seeking to “investigate” whether there is any truth at all in allegations that the late Sir Edward Heath was a paedophile.

From the first press conference - the stunt, “Cliff Richard style”, outside Sir Edward’s home in Salisbury - the handling of this “investigation” was utterly misguided.

Sadly actual child abuse is a real issue in this country and Wiltshire Police should be using their limited resources in protecting children in the county today.

I consider the position of the Chief Constable is untenable and if he does not resign he should be sacked. I certainly have no faith in him after he presided over this disgraceful shambles.

I am a solicitor with a current practising certificate.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Angus Macpherson,
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Swindon & Wilts
London Road.
Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 2DN

Date: 10th October 2017

Our ref: OPCC/040

Dear

Thank you for your letter dated 7th October 2017.

You contend that the investigation is a huge waste of taxpayers' money. The Home Secretary does not agree, having allocated £1.1million to cover the cost of the investigation.

As regards to the first press conference, this should have been held on police premises rather than at the gates of Arundells and the Chief Constable has accepted that this was an error of judgement.

I completely agree that child abuse is a real issue in this country. We have recently seen a rise in reporting of these crimes this appears to be a result of an increased confidence by victims that their accounts will be given due consideration. I know the term victim causes unease. However it is important to treat those making allegations of sexual assault in exactly the same way as we treat those making allegations of other offences. This does not presume guilt and their statements remain allegations. This has been the approach of the Constabulary in the Conifer investigation. As the Chief Constable has pointed out ignoring the allegations would have been a dereliction of duty.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Macpherson', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Angus Macpherson MBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon