

**Summary of the Internal Management Review report by Sussex Police about Operation Baseball, a review of an 'Allegation of sexual assault made against James Vincent Savile, Sussex Police'...** Crime Reference WW1/1654/08

*Unpublished – this version was obtained on request from Sussex Police 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2013. Information is also included here from a Press Release received at the same time*

**Background**

The HMIC report 'Mistakes Were Made' (See NOTA News Issue 71 November/December) refers to an unpublished report 'Report into the 2008 allegation of sexual assault made against James Vincent Savile, Sussex Police'. The Daily Star Sunday newspaper reported on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013 that a four page summary of this report had been released<sup>1</sup>, but no further information was located on the internet. A request to Sussex Police led to a press statement and an internal management review report being disclosed.

*An interesting aspect of this report is that it suggests that some, or at least one, newspaper had information regarding concerns about Savile prior to his death, but which were not reported.*

**Introductory Summary to the Review Report**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 a local woman reported that she had been sexually assaulted by Jimmy Savile in the summer of 1970 when he was visiting Worthing to attend a Chelsea pensioners' party. The subject was 22 years of age at the time of the assault, which amounted to touching over clothing. At the time of reporting the woman then decided she did not wish to pursue the allegation although the matter was recorded as a crime on Sussex Police systems (Crime Reference WW1/1654/08).

Following the commencement of Operation Yewtree (see NOTANews Issue 70 July/August) Sussex Police conducted a search of its crime intelligence databases that revealed details of the matter reported to them in 2008. As this had not led to a prosecution an internal review was commissioned in order to examine, assess and report on the investigation that had taken place.

**Circumstances leading to the victim making a report**

Soon after the incident the woman left the UK for some 20 years before returning to the UK in 1989. Following her return she decided to write to the Sun newspaper about her experience in the hope that her letter would be published, thereby exposing him and at the same time providing her with a form of closure.

It is understood that the letter was not published but she did receive a visit from a Sun reporter in November 2007. The reporter had apparently told her that a lot of other people had been in a similar situation as her and, according to the woman, the reporter told her that all it took was one person to make a complaint to the police and others would follow. At that time she was not willing to go to the police.

In March 2008 the woman received a further visit from the Sun reporter, who again asked if she would consider reporting the matter to the police. During the visit the reporter also mentioned that she had some information that Jimmy Savile may have been implicated in the child abuse investigation at the Haut de la Garenne children's home in Jersey where

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/304014/Jimmy-Savile-cops-in-cover-up-over-probe-Sussex-force-blasted> (accessed 1/8/13)

children had allegedly been abused and possibly killed. The reporter told the woman that she could not do anything about this unless she, the woman, made a complaint. It was largely due to this that the woman decided to call the police and inform them of her allegation.

*(This coincided with the time when Savile had commenced legal proceedings against the Sun newspaper which had linked him in several articles to child abuse at Haut de la Garenne).*

### **Initial police response to the allegation**

The woman had contacted the police and was visited by two officers, but she was unsure whether she wished to pursue the matter and support a criminal prosecution. The following day the woman had sent a text message to one of the officers stating that she did not want to support a prosecution. She had been visited again and a statement had been taken in which she had fully described the circumstances of the assault on her by Savile, albeit it she had already made it clear that she did not wish to support a prosecution.

### **The subsequent investigative process**

Further enquires were made which revealed the investigation by Surrey police in relation to Duncroft School (*Operation Ornament see NOTANews Issue 70 July/August*). The matter had been concluded with the papers filed and Savile not approached. Surrey Police records the Sussex papers were subsequently made available to Surrey CPS when they reviewed the Surrey file in 2009.

Subsequently four further allegations of offences occurring in Sussex related to the *Operation Yewtree* (Jimmy Savile strand) enquiry carried out by the Metropolitan Police:

1. On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 a woman contacted Sussex Police from overseas to report that she had been sexually assaulted by a man at an address in Brighton in 1966 when she was aged 16. The offence had not been reported to the police at the time nor prior to her call on 10<sup>th</sup> October;
2. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Sussex Police were contacted by a woman who said that she had been sexually assaulted at another address in Brighton in 1982, when she was 16. The offence had not been reported to the police at the time;
3. On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012 a woman contacted the Metropolitan Police to say that she had been sexually assaulted at another address in Brighton in 1983 when she was 20. The offence had not been reported to the police at the time or prior to her contact on 28<sup>th</sup> October;
4. On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Sussex Police were contacted by a woman who reported that she had been sexually assaulted in East Grinstead in 1979/1980, when she was 8 or 9. This offence had not been reported to the police at the time or prior to her contact on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Seven other people living in Sussex also made contact to say that they had been the victims of offences by Savile elsewhere in the country.

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August 2013

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