

## OPERATION HYDRANT QUARTERLY STATISTICS

### Breakdown of Live Investigations up to and Including 31 March 2019

Statistics released by Operation Hydrant provide an indicative national figure, up to and including the 31 March 2019, in relation to investigations into non-recent child sexual abuse involving an institution, organisation or a person of public prominence. The figures are accurate at the time of publication but may change as forces progress local investigations and as the information offered is further analysed.

Operation Hydrant collates this information, cross-references it to avoid duplication of investigation and ensures information and intelligence is shared across forces. The process of operational coordination is complex and detailed, and remains ongoing, meaning that figures provided may fluctuate.

The total number of alleged suspects notified to Operation Hydrant since its inception in 2014 totals 6310. This comprises 5690 males, 427 females and 193 of unknown sex. Where suspects are classified as unknown/unidentified, this may be for example someone who is identified by profession but not by name.

3323 alleged suspects remain subject to live investigations.

Investigations in relation to 2987 alleged suspects are closed. A closed investigation is any investigation, which has an outcome such as, No Further Action (NFA) by Police, NFA by the Crown Prosecution Service, acquitted, convicted or cautioned.

Within the cumulative figure of 6310 alleged suspects, 1040 are deceased.

291 alleged suspects are classified as Persons of Public Prominence (PPPs). PPP's are only 4.6% of the total alleged suspects on Operation Hydrant's database. These include:

- 91 from TV, film, or radio
- 63 are listed as politicians (including both national and local)
- 38 are from the music industry
- 29 are from the world of sport

The total number of victims on the Operation Hydrant database is 8167, comprising 5786 males, 2370 females and 11 of unknown sex.

3422 different institutions feature on the Operation Hydrant database. These include:

- 1361 Educational
- 606 Children's homes
- 348 Religious institutions
- 277 Children & young people's associations & clubs
- 363 Sport
- 148 Health establishments

Operation Hydrant is informed by police forces of investigations meeting the Operation Hydrant criteria and then coordinates the information to prevent duplication. This is called 'de-confliction'.

As forces started to capture the surge in adults reporting being sexually abused as a child, it quickly became apparent that victims were reporting being sexually abused as children by multiple offenders and in different geographical areas. There was real potential for duplication as forces commenced investigations, and the purpose of Operation Hydrant is to provide operational coordination and 'de-conflict' – to remove duplication by cross referencing accounts from victims and witnesses, identifying where forces had different allegations against one

offender, and bringing those forces together to agree primacy and collaborative working going forward. This operational coordination function also allows for the sharing of intelligence and information.

Operation Hydrant has undertaken 1582 de-conflictions as a direct consequence of reports it has received from forces and third parties.

**National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Child Protection, Chief Constable Simon Bailey said:**

“Nationally, we are still seeing reports of non-recent child sexual abuse continuing to increase. This is due to more victims and survivors having the confidence to come forward, which means we are seeing a steady rise in reports of abuse with institutions such as schools and children’s homes having the highest numbers of reports related to them.

Despite high profile cases involving people of public prominence getting the most focus in the media, these form less than five per cent of the reports to police.

Allegations of non-recent child sexual abuse are more complex to investigate compared to recent allegations due to limited forensic opportunities, witness testimony and victims and suspects spanning force geographical borders.

Regardless of all these challenges, we are seeing the conviction of people on a weekly basis who abused their position of power, trust, and influence over the children they should have been safeguarding. However; it is important we continue to listen to the voices of those abused and investigate allegations thoroughly and impartially, irrespective of when the offence took place.”