

OPERATION HYDRANT QUARTERLY STATISTICS**BREAKDOWN OF LIVE INVESTIGATIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 31 December 2018**

Statistics released by Operation Hydrant provide an indicative national figure, up to and including the 31 December 2018, 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 5861. This comprises 5291 males, 396 females and 174 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.

3433 alleged suspects remain subject to live investigations.

Investigations in relation to 2428 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 5861 alleged suspects, 919 are deceased.

287 alleged suspects are classified as Persons of Public Prominence (PPPs). PPP's are only 5% of the total alleged suspects on Operation Hydrant's database. These include:

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

The total number of victims on the Operation Hydrant database is 7576, comprising 5409 males, 2133 females and 34 of unknown sex.

3193 different institutions feature on the Operation Hydrant database. These include:

- 1253 schools
- 560 children's homes
- 350 sport
- 355 religious institutions
- 238 children & young people's associations & clubs
- 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 1031 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:

“Reports to police of non-recent child sexual abuse continue on a steady upward trend. Victims are continuing to come forward in numbers, demonstrating confidence in the policing approach.

This is a complex area of investigation – victims and suspects may span force geographical borders and allegations can be spread across several years, or even decades. Operation Hydrant has developed a model of operational coordination which ensures that the police service responds to allegations in a coordinated manner, avoiding duplication, and sharing information. Investigations are impartial, proportionate, and evidence led, benchmarked against national advice and guidelines.

In addition to this, the forensic opportunities so relied upon today may be extremely limited if they even exist. Investigating non-recent allegations therefore requires a specific set of skills and a different approach. The police service has developed significant expertise in this area of investigation, and every week offenders are brought to justice in courtrooms across the country.

In parallel to this, the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse continues with the public hearings and the Truth Project both giving voices to victims who may not have been heard previously.

The very clear message to those who have lived with the burden of child sexual abuse is that it is never too late to speak out. You will be listened to.”