

OPERATION HYDRANT QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Breakdown of Live Investigations up to and including 30 September 2019

Statistics released by Operation Hydrant provide an indicative national figure, up to and including the 30 September 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 6847. This comprises 6157 males, 483 females and 207 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.

2871 alleged suspects remain subject to live investigations.

Investigations in relation to 3976 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, acquittal, conviction or caution.

Within the cumulative figure of 6847 alleged suspects, 1178 are deceased.

273 alleged suspects are classified as Persons of Public Prominence (PPPs). PPP's are only 4.0% of the total alleged suspects on Operation Hydrant's database. These include, but are not limited to:

- 83 from TV, film, or radio
- 55 are listed as politicians (including both national and local)
- 35 are from the music industry
- 31 are from the world of sport

The total number of victims on the Operation Hydrant database is 8820, comprising 6156 males, 2645 females and 19 of unknown sex.

3696 different institutions feature on the Operation Hydrant database. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1472 Educational
- 643 Children's homes
- 390 Religious institutions
- 373 Sport
- 315 Children & young people's associations & clubs

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 'deconfliction'.

As forces started to capture the surge in adults reporting being sexually abused as a child, it quickly became apparent that there was a real potential for duplication for forces as victims were reporting multiple offenders across different geographical areas. The purpose of Operation Hydrant is to provide operational coordination and deconfliction, to remove this duplication by cross-referencing accounts from victims and witnesses, identifying where forces had different allegations against one offender. It also brings those forces together to agree primacy and collaborative working going forward and allows for the sharing of intelligence and information.

Operation Hydrant has undertaken 1756 deconflictions as a direct consequence of reports it has received from forces and third parties. It is important to note that one deconfliction request could contain multiple items including offenders and locations.

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 every quarter.

Abuse within institutions such as schools and children’s homes have the highest number of reports related to them, despite high profile cases involving persons of public prominence (PPPs) continuing to receive the most focus in the media. Cases involving PPP’s form just four per cent of the reports to police.

Non-recent child sexual abuse cases are more complex to investigate compared to recent allegations due to reduced forensic opportunities, witness testimony and victims and suspects spanning force geographical borders. Regardless of these challenges, we are seeing suspects being convicted every week for abusing their position of power, trust, and influence over the children they should have been safeguarding.

Indeed, the current number of crimes reported by victims relating to Operation Hydrant criteria, which have had a final outcome, such as no further action, caution, acquittal or conviction, is 9181. Of those crime reports, 2947 have resulted in a conviction, which equates to 32 per cent.

It is crucial we continue to listen to the voices of those abused and investigate allegations thoroughly and impartially, irrespective of when the offence took place.”