

**OPERATION HYDRANT QUARTERLY STATISTICS****Breakdown of investigations up to and including 30 September 2020**

Statistics released by Operation Hydrant provide an indicative national figure, up to and including the 30 September 2020, in relation to investigations into non-recent child sexual abuse involving an institution, organisation or a person of public prominence.

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 these figures are accurate at the time of publication. Moreover, the statistics are based on data provided by forces in relation to Operation Hydrant criteria offences and it is important to note that these may fluctuate as forces progress local investigations and as the information offered is further analysed. It is recommended that this document is read in conjunction with 'Operation Hydrant Quarterly Stat Slides' to provide further context.

The total number of alleged suspects notified to Operation Hydrant since its inception in 2014 totals 7780. This comprises 7039 males, 548 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.

2322 alleged suspects remain subject to live investigations.

Within the cumulative figure of 7780 alleged suspects, 1340 are deceased.

226 alleged suspects are classified as Persons of Public Prominence (PPPs). PPP's are only 3% of the total alleged suspects on Operation Hydrant's database. These include, but are not limited to:

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

Investigations in relation to 5458 alleged suspects are closed. A closed investigation is any investigation, which has a final outcome such as, no further action (NFA) by police, NFA by the Crown Prosecution Service, caution, acquittal or conviction.

Since 2015, the current number of reported allegations against suspects relating to Operation Hydrant criteria, which have had a final outcome is 13,212. Of those:

- 6482 (49%) resulted in no further action by police, which include, but are not limited to:
  - 34% Suspect deceased
  - 22% Suspect not identified/traced
  - 17% Victim does not support police action
  - 9% Insufficient detail/evidence
- 4395 (33%) allegations resulted in conviction at court
- 1506 (11%) allegations resulted in no further action by CPS
- 821 (6%) allegations resulted in acquittal at court
- 8 (<1%) allegations resulted in a caution

It is important to note that these outcome figures cannot be compared to national crime statistics and some suspects are subject to more than one final outcome type and will therefore be counted more than once.

The total number of victims on the Operation Hydrant database is 10,583, comprising 7225 males, 3350 females and 8 of unknown sex.

4516 different institutions feature on the Operation Hydrant database. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1801 Educational
- 725 Children's homes
- 508 Religious institutions
- 425 Sport
- 422 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 potential for duplication 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 have 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.

To date, Operation Hydrant has received 1538 deconfliction requests from forces and third parties. As a result of these requests, 4024 checks (offenders, victims, locations) have been carried out across the Operation Hydrant database. Of these, 23% are considered positive deconflictions meaning more than one force has identified allegations against one offender.

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

*"Nationally, we are still seeing an upward trend in victims and survivors reporting non-recent child sexual abuse, despite the coronavirus pandemic.*

*Abuse within educational and care settings, such as schools and children's homes, continue to have the highest number of reports related to them, despite high profile cases involving persons of public prominence (PPPs) receiving the most focus in the media. Cases involving PPP's form just three percent of the reports to police.*

*By their nature, non-recent child sexual abuse cases are more complex to investigate due to reduced forensic opportunities, witness testimony and victims and suspects spanning force geographical borders.*

*Regardless of these challenges, the current number of reported allegations against suspects relating to Operation Hydrant criteria, which have had a final outcome, such as no further action, caution, acquittal or conviction, is 13,212. Of those crime reports, 4,395 have resulted in a conviction, which equates to 33 percent. Despite the ongoing delays in the criminal justice system due to COVID-19, it is encouraging to see suspects being brought to justice for abusing their position of power, trust and influence over the children they should have been safeguarding.*

*We know that victims of non-recent child sexual abuse often do not come forward for years because they fear or they have been told they will not be believed. It is important victims do not feel disbelieved when reporting any type of crime to police. Indeed, research, such as the Victims' Commissioner's recent report following a survey of nearly 500 survivors of rape, confirms the importance of this to victims especially in providing confidence to come forward. 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."*